- **SUPER/C3**
17-year-old Filipina conquers supermodel catwalk; wins $100,000 Ford contract

- **METRO/A17**
Suspect in rob-slay of Villa Escudero heir nabbed

- **WORLD/A8**
Court grants Angelina Jolie's request for her kids to use Brad Pitt's name

- **NEWS/A4**
White House Fil-Am chef coming to help save Manila Bay

Gloria vs Erap: History repeats itself or is it karma?

BAKA PUMIRMA RIN SI JOSE VELARDE!

By Norman Bordadora and Nelson F. Flores

IS HISTORY REPEATING itself or is it karma?

Former President Joseph Estrada has called for a transition government to replace the Arroyo ad-

GLORIA/A6

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Saturday, January 21, 2006 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 44 P18 website: www.inq7.net

After final workout, Pacman feasts on chicken 'tinola'

By Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS—MANNY PACQUIAO WAS A POUND and a half short of the 130-pound limit during yesterday's trial weigh-in, and he was rewarded with the luxury of a chicken *tinola* dinner after his final workout for what is deemed the biggest fight of his career.

It also meant that the Philippines' pride would

AFTER/A7

Palace to fight rebel troops 'fire with fire'

'Bloody not like Edsa I, II'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and TJ Burgonio

WARNING OF BLOODSHED, Malacañang said yesterday it was ready to fight "fire with fire" if rebel soldiers used violence in trying to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Incoming Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor, baring the Palace's tough stance against any armed uprising, said efforts to stoke another People Power could unleash a bloodbath not seen in previous popular uprisings.

"Maybe the Magdalo 4 do not understand the consequences of their call for the military to withdraw their support from the President because it will be bloody for all of us," Defensor said in a forum at the Ambassador Hotel, referring to the four Army soldiers who escaped from detention earlier this week.

In an interview later, Defensor said Ms Arroyo's offer of reconciliation to her opponents amid persistent efforts to destabilize her government also had its limit.

"If they decide to actually take up arms against the President or there is an attempt to use violence, not only based on rumors or intelligence reports, then we should go hard on them. We will fight fire with fire," Defensor said.

During a National Security Council meeting which he attended, Defensor cited intelligence reports that the Magdalo 4 could be forging an alliance with leftist groups after the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army offered sanctuary to them.

"We appeal to these young soldiers, whose patriotism might have been misplaced, to reconsider their position because there are other ways to achieve the reforms they want in the military," Defensor said.

Defensor said that Ms Arroyo would not sit idly by while her detractors took "desperate measures" to reach their goal of removing her from office.

PALACE/A6

JOAN BONDOC

PEOPLE POWER was reborn here 5 years ago yesterday. But the anniversary was marked by protest at the nearby People Power Monument, and tight security rather than a celebration.

LYN RILLON

UNSETTLING developments in the country notwithstanding, President Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro inspect a resettlement site of the National Housing Authority in Barangay Marinig, Cabuyao, Laguna, home to 4,000 families relocated from Makati. With the President is Laguna Gov. Teresita Lazaro (left). *(Story on Page A6.)*

The coup, according to DOJ's Gonzalez

By Armand Nocum

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ claimed yesterday he had seen intelligence reports that rebellious junior military officers planned to launch a coup and the "critical period" would be from midnight last night up to this morning.

And communist rebels might be part of the attempt.

It was not the first time that Gonzalez had spoken about alleged plots to unseat, or even assassinate, President Macapagal-Arroyo. None of his previous claims came true.

"The time from midnight (Friday) to the early part of tomorrow morning (Saturday) is a critical period for the coup," Gonzalez told Department of Justice reporters.

He said the rebel soldiers were working with the communist New People's Army (NPA).

The crucial period for the attempt could extend up to Jan. 23, he said, without giving details.

Yesterday was the anniversary of a popular revolt which

THE COUP/A6

AFP bugs only land lines, says top spook

By Alcuin Papa and TJ Burgonio

THE PHILIPPINES' TOP SPOOK yesterday admitted that the military's intelligence unit was capable of wiretapping individuals.

But Brig. Gen. Marlu Quevedo, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, qualified that its wiretapping capability was "limited" to land lines.

"It's illegal if you go beyond that," he said, and pointed out that the wiretapping mission should be covered by a court order.

Quevedo's admission, made to defense reporters, contradicted previous pronouncements of military officials that the Isafp was not engaged in wiretapping.

He also said the Isafp could not afford to procure bugging devices that could intercept calls made on cellular phones using the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) standard.

GSM is the most popular standard in use in the country.

AFP BUGS/A6

SC: Cojuangco shares in PLDT ill-gotten

By Armand N. Nocum and Clarissa S. Batino

THE SUPREME COURT YESTERDAY declared as ill-gotten a large block of shares of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. that is the subject of a four-way dispute between the government and the families of the late businessman Ramon J. Cojuangco, Chinese-Filipino tycoon Alfonso Yuchengco and the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Voting 7 to 4, the high court upheld the government's suit asking that it be declared the rightful owner of 111,415 shares of the Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp. (PITC) registered under the name of Prime Holdings Inc. (PHI).

The PTIC was the biggest stockholder of PLDT, owning 28 percent of the firm, at the time the case was filed. The Cojuangco family owns the controlling stake in Prime Holdings, making it the single biggest stockholder of the telecoms firm at the time.

The block of PTIC shares, constituting about 6.4 percent of the country's largest telecoms firm, is now worth about P21 billion.

The First Pacific Co. Ltd., the Hong Kong-based conglomerate that is now the biggest shareholder of PLDT with roughly 23 percent stake, yesterday said the high tribunal's decision would not affect its position.

PLDT spokesperson Ramon Isberto said that First Pacific, controlled by the Indonesia-based Salim family, bought a "clean block of shares" from the Co-

SC: COJUANGCO/A4

No truce as Bin Laden threatens to hit US again

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED STATES does not plan to raise its security threat level after Osama bin Laden warned of pending attacks in the "heartland" of America but also offered a "long-term truce" if Washington withdrew its military presence from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The White House also firmly rejected Thursday (Friday in Manila) Bin Laden's suggestion of a negotiated truce. "We don't negotiate with terrorists," Vice President Dick Cheney said. "I think you have to destroy them."

Counterterror officials said they had seen no specific or credible intelligence to indicate a coming al-Qaida attack on the United States. Nor have they noticed an increase in terrorist communications "chatter," although that could increase or decrease dramatically immediately before an attack.

The tape, released by Qatar television network Al-Jazeera, brought new attention to the al-Qaida leader after a yearlong absence of public statements.

Bin Laden said he decided to make a statement to the American people because he said US President George W. Bush was pushing ahead despite polls which showed "an overwhelming majority of you want the withdrawal of American troops from Iraq."

He said the Bush administration was lying about victories in the Iraq war. Bin Laden insisted the insurgents would eventually win the conflict, which he said was only strengthening the cause of the "mujahedeen," or holy warriors.

But he said that even if the US did prevail in the war, "the nights and days will not pass without us taking vengeance like on Sept. 11, God permitting."

He warned that security measures in the West and the US could not prevent attacks there, citing the July 7 bombings in London that killed 56 people.

"The delay in similar operations happening in America has not been because of failure to break through your security measures," he said. "The operations are under preparation and you will see them in your homes the minute they are through (with preparations), with God's permission."

He offered a "long-term truce with fair conditions that we adhere to. ... Both sides can enjoy security and stability under this truce so we can build Iraq and Afghanistan, which have been destroyed in this war.

"There is no shame in this solution, which prevents the wasting of billions of

NO TRUCE/A4

VIDEO GRAB/AL-JAZEERA/AFP

SUDDENLY, Bin Laden breaks a yearlong silence to warn of attack on US "heartland."

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/01/21/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONT PAGE

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Fil-Am pilot killed in Iraq

By Volt Contreras

A HELICOPTER GUNSHIP PILOT HAS BECOME the third Filipino-American serving in the US military to be killed in Iraq over the last two months.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ruel Garcia, 34, died in a crash after his Apache chopper was shot down by a surface-to-air missile in the morning of Jan. 16 (Iraq time), his father Rosendo of Panghulo, Obando, Bulacan, told the INQUIRER yesterday. His unidentified co-pilot was also killed.

Two Fil-Am US troopers were killed in separate rebel attacks in Iraq last month, namely Spc. Peter Navarro, 20, and Sgt. Myla Maravillosa, 24. The latter was buried last Thursday in her hometown of Inabanga, Bohol, with full US military honors.

"I had my worries on the day he enlisted, but I had since conditioned myself to expect that anything could happen to him," the elder Garcia said in Filipino of the eldest of his three children.

"He already loved planes and flying when he was still a small boy, back when I often took him to watch air shows at the Nichols Air Base (now Villamor Air Base in Pasay City)," he recalled.

He said he and wife Cynthia were informed of their son's death by the US Embassy. He said they plan to bury him in Obando, although his body was to be flown first to his Filipina wife, Amapola, in Texas.

The young Ruel grew up in Bulacan and took up electronics and communications engineering at the Mapua Institute of Technology in Manila. In his fifth year in college, he moved to Hawaii to join his mother, a US immigrant.

He finished his engineering course at the University of Nevada and signed up for the US Air Force in November 1992, then switched to the Army four years later, his father said.

Reports from Honolulu, where Ruel's grandparents live, said the chopper was downed in Taji, north of Baghdad. Ruel and his co-pilot served under Task Force Iron Horse of the US Army's 4th Infantry Division based in Fort Hood, Texas.

No Edsa II celebration

UNLIKE IN THE PAST, THE fifth anniversary of President Macapagal-Arroyo's rise to the presidency via people power went by without fanfare.

Palace officials said it did not know why there was no event to mark the fifth Edsa II anniversary yesterday. The Samahan ng mga Mamamayan para sa Bayan, a group supportive of Ms Arroyo, planned to commemorate the occasion with a bonfire last night at the Edsa people power monument on Ortigas Ave. *Christine O. Avendaño*

EDSA II vets slam gov't they helped install

VETERANS OF THE POPULAR uprising that toppled former President Joseph Estrada from power five years ago marched back to the People Power Monument yesterday, not to relive what was a glorious day to them, but to rail against the government they had helped to install.

Their number – 300 members of the left-wing coalition Laban ng Masa – was a far cry from the huge throngs that swarmed around the monument and the nearby Edsa Shrine five years ago.

Waving banners and chanting slogans, the crowd called for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo and the rejection of the administration-backed Charter change proposal of former President Fidel V. Ramos.

The group said the two uprisings on Edsa – the other one being the People Power revolt that ended Ferdinand Marcos' 20-year rule in 1986 – had served only to institute "new regimes of elite democracy."

After an hour-long program, the crowd marched toward Camp Aguinaldo, home of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, where they aired support for the four escaped Magdalo soldiers. *DJ Yap with a report from Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Militant farmers sign 'GMA Resign' manifesto in blood

MILITANT FARMERS YESTERDAY signed in their own blood a manifesto calling for President Macapagal-Arroyo's immediate resignation as they commemorated the 19th anniversary of the "Mendiola Massacre" in Manila.

Led by Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas secretary general Danilo Ramos, leaders of different militant organizations used knives and surgical blades to drew blood from their arms during a program in front of San Sebastian College on Recto Avenue.

The militant leaders then used rice stalks dipped in their blood to sign their names on the manifesto.

In their manifesto, the farmers gave Ms Arroyo 100 days to vacate Malacañang. *Margaux C. Ortiz with a report from DJ Yap*

Bill filed to advance P13.1-B pay hike

By Norman Bordadora

THE CHAIR OF THE HOUSE APpropriations committee filed on Thursday a "special appropriations bill" authorizing the advanced release of P13.1 billion from the proposed P1.05-trillion 2006 budget for the salary increase of more than 1.4 million national government workers.

Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., said the immediate passage of House Bill No. 5013 would ensure that government workers would get their pay increase this year even if Congress fails to enact the General Appropriations Act and the existing budget is re-enacted .

Under the compensation package proposed in his special budget bill, Andaya said national government employees would get an average pay hike of eight percent.

"The bill serves as the first tranche of the 2006 appropriations law. By segregating the P13.1 billion fund from the budget, we are de-linking it from the eventual fate of the 2006 budget," Andaya said.

The Bicol solon filed the special appropriations bill just hours after President Macapagal-Arroyo announced her plan to ask Congress to advance the passage of the "pay hike component" of the P1.05 trillion 2006 national budget.

"(This) bill will cut the waiting time for the promised salary increase. Government workers live on a payday-to-payday existence," Andaya said.

Judge: Non-serving of warrants 'should not derail (GIs) case'

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

OLONGAPO CITY—THE TRIAL of the four United States Marines accused of raping a Filipino woman will move forward even if the arrest order against them was not successfully served on the US Embassy.

The presiding judge Renato Dilag yesterday said defense and prosecution lawyers had accepted his position that the non-serving of the arrest warrants "should not derail the case."

The judge said the defense lawyers had made a commitment to present the accused whenever they are required in court.

Twice he explained when the accused could be considered to be in the custody of the law.

While finding probable cause for issuing the arrest warrant, Dilag also considered Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpentier and Lance Corporals Daniel Smith, Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis in the custody of the law because they had voluntarily submitted themselves to the proper authorities, in this case to the US Embassy.

"That provision [in the court rules] may fit in with the provision of the VFA [Visiting Forces Agreement]," he later explained.

An accused is also taken into custody during an arrest covered by a court order or through a warrantless arrest.

The US Embassy has officially declared it had custody when it refused to turn over the four soldiers last Jan. 16, invoking a provision in the VFA that allows US authorities to hold accused US servicemen until the end of judicial proceedings.

The alleged rape occurred on Nov. 1 at the Subic Bay Freeport.

The issue of custody arose when Assistant Prosecutor Peter Parco opposed the motions of defense lawyers to have the arrest warrants set aside to prevent their clients being arrested when they appeared in court.

Parco relented only after the defense lawyers assured the court that the accused would appear in court when needed.

Their presence as well as that of the 22-year-old complainant are required during arraignment, identification and promulgation.

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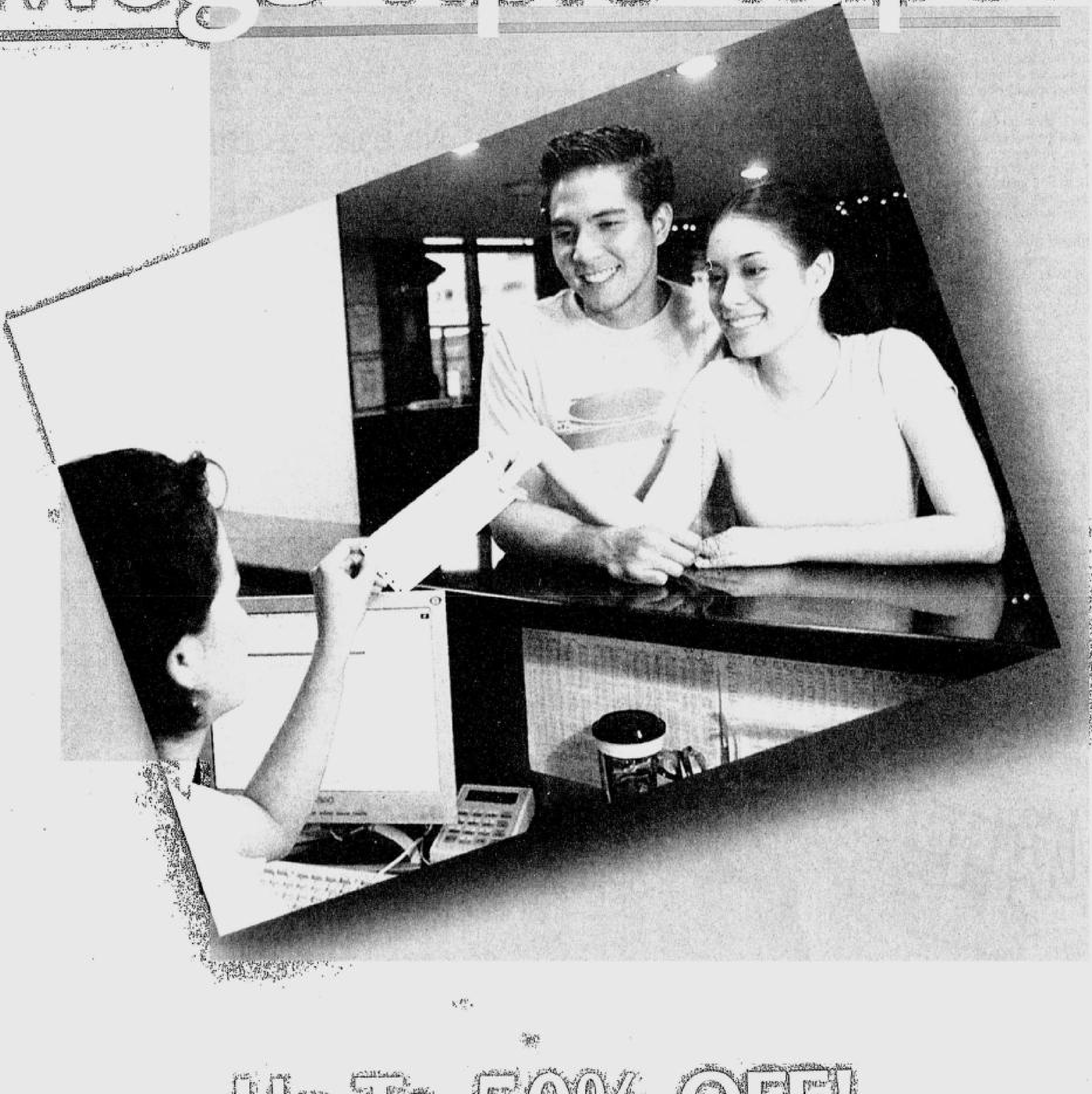

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SC rules Cojuangco shares in PLDT ill-gotten

From page A1

juangco and the Yuchengco families as well as from the equities market in 1999.

PLDT not involved

"As far as PLDT is concerned, the case involves the government and competing claims over the block of shares. As a company, PLDT is not involved in this matter," said Isberto.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government, the agency tasked with the recovery of ill-gotten Marcos assets, claimed that the PITC shares formed part of the estate of the late dictator. It said the contested shares were ill-gotten and that the Cojuangcos and PHI had acquired the PLDT shares as Marcos dummies.

In its 35-page decision penned by Associate Justice Conchita Carpio Morales, the high court said the PCGG "can and must recover for the Republic the 111,415 shares being held by PHI, they bearing the character of ill-gotten wealth whether they be in the hands of Marcos or those of Cojuangco."

The court reversed the May 6, 2002 ruling of the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court dismissing the suit of the PCGG against the Marcos family, the late Ramon Cojuangco and his wife Imelda Cojuangco and Prime Holdings over the PLDT shares.

Consolidated case

The case is a consolidation of five separate petitions between the government, and the Cojuangco and Yuchengco clans arising from Sandiganbayan Civil Case No. 2 initiated by the PCGG against Imelda Marcos, her three children and other individuals.

The estate of Ramon Cojuangco and Imelda Cojuangco claims to be the rightful owners of 44 percent of PTIC.

In 1999, Imelda Marcos, the widow of the dictator, filed a cross-claim with the Sandiganbayan claiming that she and her late husband owned the 42 percent of PLDT held by the Cojuangco-Ongsiako families, the 7.8 percent held by Yuchengco and the 3.1 percent of Antonio Meer.

Notwithstanding the 1998 sale by former PLDT chair Antonio Cojuangco, the son of Ramon, of 44 percent of PTIC to the First Pacific conglomerate, the ownership of the Cojuangco block in PTIC is still being contested in the Sandiganbayan by the government, the Marcoses, the Cojuangcos and Yuchengcos.

Yesterday's ruling was concurred in by Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, Ma. Alicia Martinez and Renato Corona.

Justice Romeo J. Callejo Jr. filed a separate concurring opinion while two other magistrates—Senior Associate Justices Reynato S. Puno and Leonardo Quisumbing—concurred "in the result."

Dissenting

Four magistrates, Justices Cancio Garcia, Minita Chico-Nazario and Angelina Sandoval-Gutierez, and Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, dissented from the majority opinion.

Justices Adolfo Azcuna, Dante Tinga and Antonio Carpio opted to inhibit themselves from the case. Carpio and Azcuna admitted having acted as private counsel to Alfonso Yuchengco and Tinga, a former congressman, said he had "participated in a legislative investigation involving the matter."

Marcos dummy

Court records show that PHI was put up on Oct. 5, 1977 through incorporators Jose D. Campos Jr, Rolando Gapud, Renato Lirio, Ernesto Abalos and Gervacio Gaviola.

The Supreme Court said that testimony from a number of the firm's former executives, particularly PHI secretary Franciso G. De Guzman, upheld the PCGG's claim that the shares were part of the Marcos ill-gotten assets.

"(The) statements of De Guzman clearly support the thesis of the Republic that PHI is a dummy of the Marcoses, it having been completely organized by associates of Campos, who had categorically testified to having organized PHI for the benefit of President Marcos.

"On the other hand, there is hardly any evidence on Cojuangco's role in the organization of PHI to substantiate the thesis that the same was beneficially owned by him," the court ruling said.

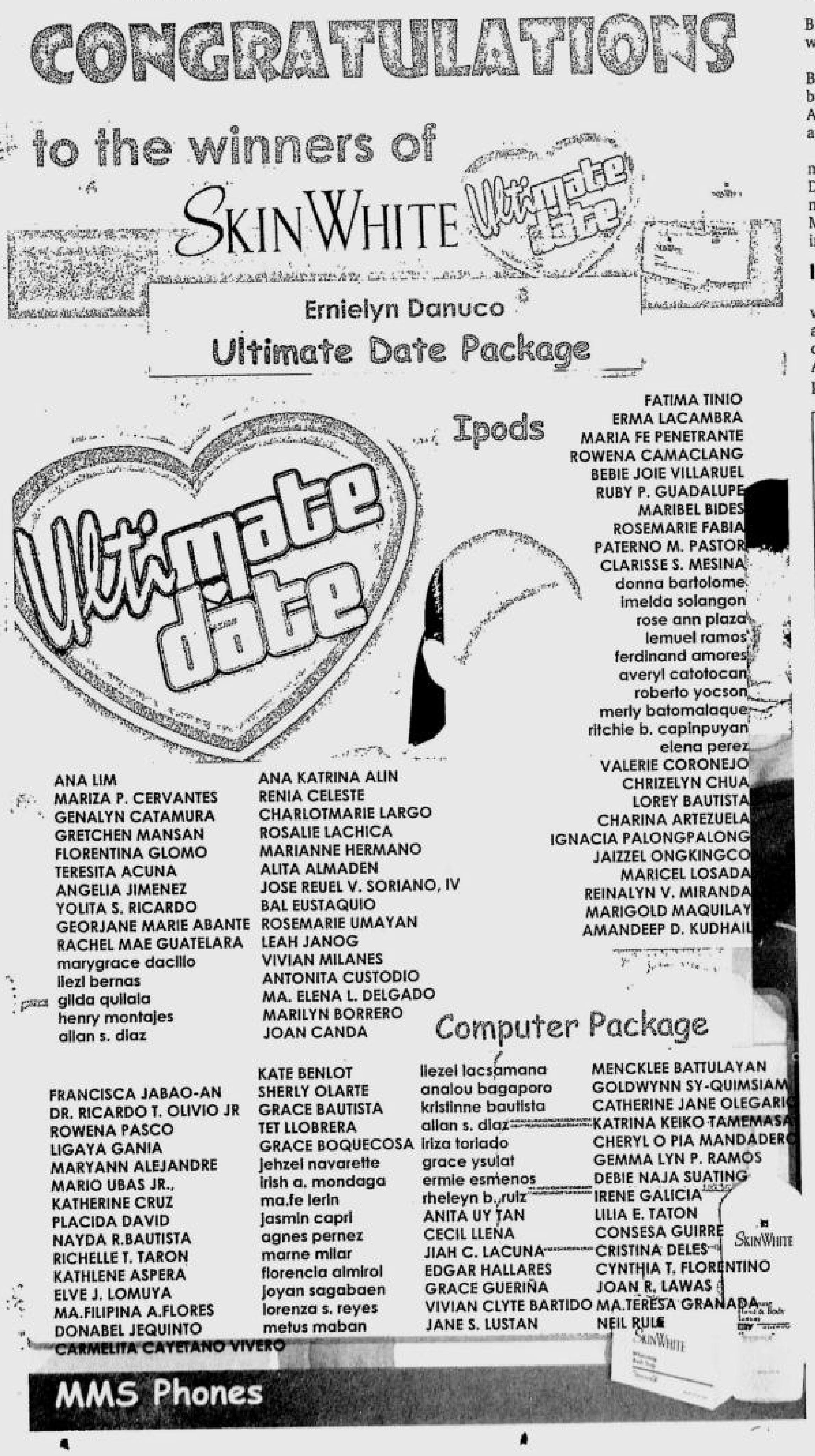
First Pacific controls 54%

PTIC owns about 14 percent of PLDT. First Pacific and its managing director Manuel Pangilinan controls 54 percent of PTIC while Prime Holdings, controlled by the Cojuangco family, accounts for the rest.

The Japan-based NTT Communications Corp. owns about 14 percent of PLDT.

NTT DoCoMo will buy about five percent of PLDT from NTT Communications by the end of the month.

PLDT shares closed at P1,785 yesterday, down P15 a piece. The company ended 2005 with a market capitalization of P331.585 billion.



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MMS Phones

White House chef coming for save-Manila Bay drive

By Blanche S. Rivera

SOMETHING'S COOKING IN Manila Bay and it could very well save world-famous Manila Bay.

A group of marine conservationists has invited Filipino-American Cristeta Pasia-Comerford, the executive chef at the White House, to host a sunset cruise and dinner to raise funds for the mangrove reforestation of Manila Bay.

Comerford is likely to come. Her eldest brother, Dan Pasia, heads the Philippine Aquatic and Marine Life Conservationists Association (Pamarcon), the group that has launched an ambitious campaign to reforest 60,000 hectares of the bay.

Pasia said he had written his sister two weeks ago to inform her of the group's fundraising plan to reforest portions of the 17,000-sq-km bay. The group is expecting a favorable response soon.

"She's always open to good causes ... and she usually takes her annual vacation around March or April so she might agree to it and be here," Pasia told reporters during the monthly Kamayan para sa Kalikasan at the Kamayan restaurant on Edsa yesterday.

Showing off his cap with a White House label, a souvenir item from Comerford, Pasia announced Pamarcon's plan to sponsor an affair aboard the floating restaurant. His sister would cook and prepare a full-course meal set at dusk, a perfect time to watch the poetic sunset at Manila Bay.

Comerford, 42, was chosen from hundreds of applicants to head the executive kitchen of the White House in August last year. The naturalized US citizen was assistant chef at the White House for 10 years and worked under former executive chef Walter Scheib III.

Social concern

She was the 10th of 11 children of Honesto, an assistant principal, and Erlinda, a homemaker. She finished more than 84 units in food technology at the University of the Philippines before migrating to the United States and working in different hotels.

"She has always expressed her desire to come back to the Philippines soon. I think she can do this. She has social concern," Pasia said of his sister who knows of his 15-year-old advocacy to save Manila Bay.

The Pamarcon wants to revive its Balik Bakawanan project, which was first launched in 1996. The project seeks to recover the bay's original mangrove forest covering 60,000 hectares in the 1920s. The mangrove forest is now down to about 3,000 hectares.

No truce as Bin Laden . . .

From page A1

dollars that have gone to those with influence and merchants of war in America," he said.

Recommended read

He even recommended a book for Americans to read—"The Rogue State," apparently a book of the same title by American author William Blum. He said it offered the path to peace—that America must apologize to victims of the wars and promise never to "interfere" in other nations—though it was not clear if these were conditions for the truce.

The tape ended the longest silence from Bin Laden since the Sept. 11 attacks, a lull which had raised speculation over his fate.

The last audiotape purported to be from Bin Laden was broadcast in December 2004 by Al-Jazeera. In that recording, he endorsed Abu-Musab al-Zarqawi as his deputy in Iraq and called for a boycott of Iraqi elections.

Previously, the longest period without a message from the al-Qaida leader was from December 2001 to November 2002. He issued numerous tapes in 2003 and 2004, calling for Muslims to attack US interests and threatening attacks against the United States.

Increased security at LAX

The Homeland Security Department said it would not raise the national threat alert level at this time. But the tape did prompt increased security at Los Angeles International Airport and other precautions at the city's port and water and power facilities.

"At this time, we lack corroborating information suggesting that al-Qaida is prepared to attack the United States in the near term," Homeland Security spokesperson Michelle Petrovich said. "But we recognize that al-Qaida remains committed to striking the homeland."

The national terror threat level currently stands at yellow, the middle of five grades, signifying an elevated risk of attack. The government has raised the alert level to orange, signaling a high threat risk, seven times since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Intelligence officials believe the tape was recorded last month. Before its release after a year's silence, al-Qaida's No. 2 leader, Ayman al-Zawahri, has served as the terror network's public face.

The recording was released only days after US missile attacks in Pakistan that Pakistani officials said killed four senior al-Qaida operatives among 18 victims in a border village.

CIA analysts verified the recording as Bin Laden's voice. They offered no details about how they reached that conclusion, but in the past the agency has verified authenticity in part by comparing new recordings to earlier messages.

Al-Qaida 'hobbled'

Cheney said the tape showed that al-Qaida had been hobbled, because "they didn't have the ability to do anything on video" and because it had been so long since Bin Laden had been heard from.

He said the tape's significance depended in part on whether it was determined to have been produced in recent days or weeks or pieced together from the more distant past.

However, Cheney saw a continued threat from al-Qaida.

"We see ample evidence of continued plotting against the United States," the vice president said in an interview with Fox News Channel. "I think we have to assume that the threat is going to continue for a considerable period of time. Even if Bin Laden were no longer to be a factor, I still think we'd have problems with al-Qaida."

Homeland Security officials alerted states about Bin Laden's comments in a routine call Thursday morning, Petrovich said.

In Los Angeles, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said city police deployed additional resources at the airport and "posted signs indicating that bomb-sniffing dogs and searches will occur frequently." He described the measures as precautionary, as the city had received no known threats.

The Port of Los Angeles and the Department of Water and Power also planned precautionary measures, according to Villaraigosa's statement.

No alarms

Sharon Gang, a spokesperson for District of Columbia Mayor Anthony A. Williams, said the national capital was not raising its terror alert level. Across the Potomac River in Virginia, the information triggered no alarms, said Steve Mondul, the state's deputy preparedness director.

"The basic header we put on it was, everyone should be a little more alert, and watch this space for further instructions," said Mondul, who participated in the Homeland Security call and then passed on the information to Virginia law enforcement, military, health and transportation agencies.

There has been much speculation in the past year about Bin Laden's whereabouts and even whether he was alive.

The tape apparently provides no definitive answers to either question, but there was speculation it might have been an attempt to show supporters that Bin Laden was still around.

"He has made threats before, but there hasn't been a public utterance for a long time and for that reason no one is being dismissive about it," said one counterterror official speaking on condition of anonymity while the tape was being analyzed.

President Bush was told about the audio tape Thursday, White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said. "We do not negotiate with terrorists," McClellan said. "We put them out of business."

AP

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, the banner story—"Escape part of bigger plot"—misstated that Rep. Prospero Nograles is the House minority leader. Nograles is the House majority leader.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, another front-page story—"Never again, says girl holding Bible at GMA's oath-taking"—misstated that Ma. Elena Bautista is the Land Transportation Office chief. Bautista heads the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

* * *

IN THE SAME story we misstated the name of Patsy Abad's school as Holy Spirit College. It should be College of the Holy Spirit where she is a senior high school student.

* * *

IN THE JAN. 18 issue, a story on Page A16—"Installation of new Tanauan mayor ordered"—misspelled the name of a Commission on Elections commissioner as Florentino Tuazon Jr. His last name is Tuason.

* * *

AN ITEM in Metro Briefs on the Metro page of the Jan. 14 issue misstated that Toti Villalon would give a lecture on World Heritage Sites in the Philippines on Jan. 21. He actually delivered the lecture on that day, Jan. 14. There will be no lecture on Jan. 21.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, the first name and position of National Water Resources Board executive director Ramon Alikpala was inadvertently dropped in the second edition of the Metro section story—"2 firms could face raps for illegal wells"—which was published on Page A17.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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Salonga offers to patch up feuding LP factions

By Margaux C. Ortiz and TJ Burgonio

THE GRAND OLD MAN OF THE LIBERAL Party, former Senate President Jovito Salonga, offered to patch up his splintered party as the feuding factions went their separate ways in celebrating the group's 60th anniversary on Thursday.

At the same time, Salonga said there was a need to resolve the question of legitimacy hanging over President Macapagal-Arroyo, the very issue that drove a wedge between the factions of Senate President Franklin Drilon, the party's president, and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, the party's national chair.

Salonga, 85, made the statement in a speech read for him by Dr. Quintin Doromal at a rally highlighting the Liberal Party's 60th anniversary in Plaza Miranda Thursday.

"Today we are divided once more but it is my hope and prayer that like brothers, we can disagree without being disagreeable, we can differ without being difficult," said Salonga, the party's chairman emeritus. "If I can serve as an instrument of reconciliation between the two camps, I shall be most happy."

Addressing the political crisis that has gripped the nation for the past eight months, Salonga said that if Ms Arroyo was right in saying she won the May 10, 2004 presidential election fair and square, "there should be an end to the senseless squabbles and bickering" crippling the nation.

"But if the truth is otherwise, then justice must take its normal course," he added.

Doromal read Salonga's message early on in the rally, well before the arrival of President Arroyo, who promised the crowd she would get Congress to approve a P13-billion wage-hike package for government employees.

Absent from the rally were party stalwarts belonging to Drilon's faction, which had called for Ms. Arroyo's resignation and celebrated the party's anniversary by holding a conference at the Dusit Hotel in Makati City.

About 3,000 people attended the Plaza Miranda rally, many of them waving banners in support of Ms Arroyo and Atienza. Some held signs calling Drilon a "fake member of the party."

The rift in the party, a part of Ms Arroyo's political coalition, surfaced last July when Drilon, Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon called for Ms Arroyo's resignation amid charges that she had stolen the presidency.

The LP group headed by Atienza distanced itself from the Drilon faction and threw its support behind the beleaguered President.

In his speech, Salonga noted that conflicts were not new to the party.

"Our history as a party has been marked by division and eventual unity, and despite all the obstacles, the Liberal Party moved on," Salonga said, echoing the same reconciliation theme voiced by other party leaders.

In a talk with reporters, Atienza maintained that the other faction's decision to expel the mayor's group from the party was not valid because it violated the party's rules. He said there had been "very serious efforts" to reconcile the two sides and "We are hoping that faction would wake up soon."

Meanwhile, Rep Neric Acosta, LP executive vice president and member of the Drilon faction, issued a statement saying that "the party has decided to uphold our individual member's positions on such fundamental issues pertaining to the legitimacy of a sitting President and the credibility of our electoral process."

Acosta cknowledged that the party needed to reflect and thresh out differences among its members.

"We believe that the LP, faced as it is with internal disagreements, will emerge stronger for it," he said. "The LP takes the challenge of working through these differences at its own pace and mode."

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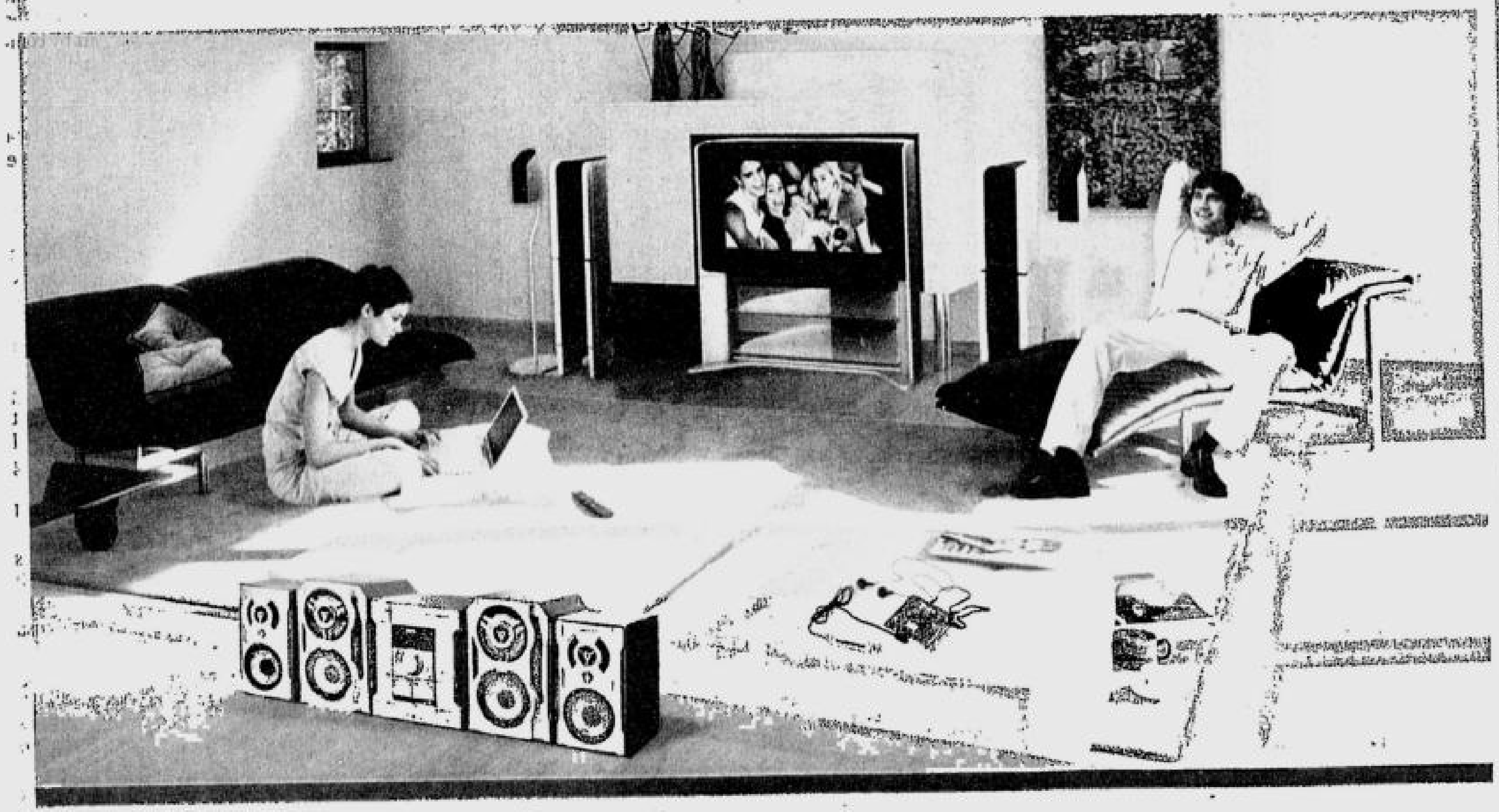

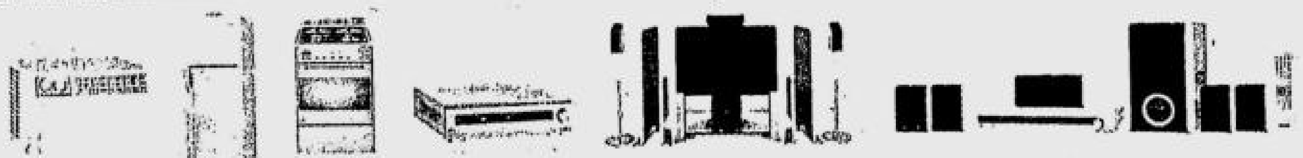

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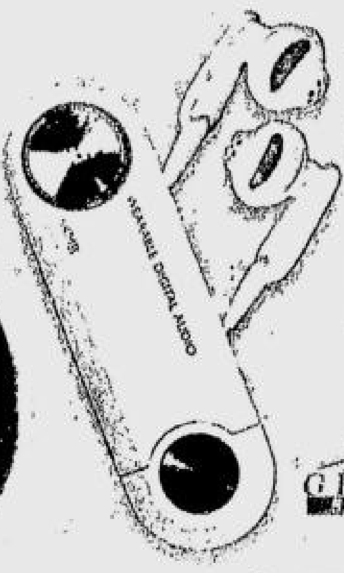

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Palace set to fight rebel troops 'fire with fire'

From page A1

"Unlike Edsa I, II and III, this will not be treated anymore as a simple withdrawal of support or just a show of force. This will really cause bloodshed and problems for all of us," Defensor said.

He said Malacañang was not troubled by the opposition's alleged plan to gather its forces and launch a united assault against the Arroyo administration.

"What we are afraid of is if they go beyond the parameters of democracy and use violence or other moves in violation of the Constitution," Defensor said.

No alternative

For all the mud thrown at the President, Defensor said the people's disenchantment against her had not yet reached a point where they had to take to the streets in massive numbers to demand her ouster, because of the lack of an alternative from the opposition.

"It has not yet reached that threshold for the people to come and say that the President should come down because deep in the minds of the people they want to give the President a chance," Defensor said.

"If in the end she does not deliver, a very strong segment of the Filipino populace will come out and say, 'Madame President, it's time to give and make others lead the country'."

Same coup rumors

Defensor appeared unfazed by a fresh wave of coup rumors buffeting the administration, saying this was no different from the Ramos era.

"This is the same (political problems) facing President Ramos then but the people saw how the economy was growing, how their lives were improving, and how prices of products were going down," he said.

"If we can deliver on our economic promises, this will take care of our political problems."

Emergency rule?

A military analyst yesterday cautioned the public against falling for a scenario allegedly being painted by the Arroyo administration that the escape of four Magdalo soldiers was part of a fresh destabilization plot against the government.

"The scenario [being painted now] is that of a beleaguered government threatened and forced to resort to extraordinary measures. We should watch out for this tomfoolery," the analyst, who asked not be named, said in an interview.

The analyst theorized that the administration was using the escape as a "convenient way" to lay the ground for the imposition of an emergency rule in view of the leadership crisis dogging Ms Arroyo.

"If we can't have Cha-cha, let's have an emergency rule," he said, suggesting that that could be the direction Malacañang was taking.

The analyst viewed the escape as an "isolated incident" and doused speculations a coup was being cooked up by clandestine military factions, which had been closely watching developments.

"There's no momentum right now. You'll feel the tension; you'll feel the push [if there's one]. But there's no indication of a groundswell," he stressed.

Grand design

Law enforcement and administration officials had been quick to conclude that the escape was part of a grand design to oust Ms Arroyo. National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales went as far as to say there was a plot to assassinate her.

Jailed Oakwood mutiny leader Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV said the escape was part of "things to come."

A group which calls itself the Young Officers' Union new generation (YOUng) has claimed that it helped the escape of the four officers.

The analyst cast doubts on Trillanes' statement, which he described as "studied," and on the existence of the YOUng, which he theorized was being funded by a group to serve as a link to the underground movement in the military.

"It's a strong statement, but what is he really saying?" he said of Trillanes.

But military intelligence said yesterday it was not dismissing Trillanes' statement.

Trillanes statement assessed

Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) chief Brig. Gen. Marlu Quevedo told reporters they were "assessing" the statements of Trillanes in light of another plot to overthrow Ms Arroyo.

The military stressed it was confident soldiers in the field would never join another coup because they know the implications of such a military adventurism.

Lt. Cmdr. Earl Pabalan, deputy chief of the AFP Public Information Office, said the failure of the 2003 Oakwood mutiny to gather broad support meant the military ranks had spurned coup d'etat as a means to effect change.

"The Oakwood experience was a revealing indicator that soldiers don't agree with misadventures. The officers and men have already realized the political, social and economic implications," Pabalan said.

GMA's legitimacy

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon refused to say if the Magdalo escape was part of a destabilization plot, but stressed that this pointed to the need to resolve questions on the legitimacy of Ms Arroyo's presidency.

The senator, chair of the committee on national defense, wondered if the four escapees' battle-cry of a "new AFP" was related at all to the "new AFP" concept espoused by then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel V. Ramos in February 1986 during the first People Power uprising.

"Now I don't know if there is a relationship in the emergence of that old name that is being claimed to be a new one. That is an old one. It has been used before, it is being used again. I don't know if there is a relationship," he said.

New exorcism

In their statement after their escape, the four Magdalo officers said: "We make up the new AFP. And we join our fellow Filipinos who now refuse to be cowed. We are a force that grows stronger by the day." *With a report from Alcuin Papa*

AFP bugs only land lines, says top spook

From page A1

At the resumption on Thursday of the Senate inquiry into the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal, witness Marietta Santos claimed to have seen a mobile phone interceptor in one of her forays into the "blue room" of the Isafp's Military Intelligence Group 21 at Camp Aguinaldo.

But Quevedo brushed aside Santos' claim, saying: "We need evidence to prove that."

Overhaul suggested

At a briefing, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said the Isafp should "definitely" be overhauled in view of mounting evidence that it wiretapped private individuals, including those in the opposition, during the 2004 election period.

Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense conducting the "Hello Garci" inquiry, told reporters that the intelligence agency had been "politicized."

He recalled that at the Thursday hearing, former Sen. Gregorio Honasan, retired Navy Commodore Rex Robles and retired Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Canieso were outraged by evidence indicating the Isafp's extensive wiretapping operations in 2004.

"They were shaken—maybe that is a very mild word—by what emerged yesterday at the hearing—the politicization of no less than the core of national defense operations, which is intelligence," Biazon said.

Tapes as proof

To prove the contention that the Isafp was wiretapping opponents of the Arroyo administration during the 2004 election period, Biazon produced and played the so-called "children of the mother of all tapes" at the Senate inquiry.

He said the tapes—showing that the phones of the staff of then Senator Honasan and then presidential candidate Sen. Panfilo Lacson were tapped from January to June 2004—were proof that the agency was being used for political purposes.

Among the voices in the tapes played were identified as those of Mira Dumlao, a staff member at Honasan's former office; Canieso, a supporter of Lacson's, and Robles.

Asked yesterday if the Isafp wiretapped members of the opposition during the 2004 election period, Quevedo said: "I don't know. I don't have an idea."

At that time, Quevedo was deputy chief and Rear Adm. Tirso Danga was chief of the Isafp.

Danga was eventually named deputy chief of staff for intelligence (J2) and Quevedo, Isafp chief.

Sergeant Doble

When the "Hello Garci" controversy—involving supposed wiretapped conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano—blew up in June 2005, Danga vehemently denied that the Isafp had the capability to conduct wiretapping operations.

The tapes were given to the opposition by TSgt. Vidal Doble, who last year sought refuge in the San Carlos Seminary in Makati City together with wiretapping whistle-blower Samuel Ong.

When Doble returned to military custody, he denied he was the source of the tapes and accused Ong of kidnapping him and holding him inside the seminary.

Quevedo yesterday said Doble was "not holding any sensitive position" in the military and was currently "under investigation."

He also said Doble's movements were not restricted. He pointed out that Doble had not been convicted of any crime and could leave the Isafp compound any time.

Screening imperative

Biazon said that for starters, the military should strengthen the system of screening prospective intelligence agents and do away with the so-called revolving-door policy, or the practice of appointing officers to key posts on a short-term basis.

"No one should be assigned in the intelligence community unless his name is included in that list—and inclusion in that list requires certain minimum standards like training. Maybe even some personal trait is examined," he said.

The senator also said the military should rectify the mistake of the old Isafp in giving civilians access to its premises, as in the case of Santos, who freely roamed its compound in June 2004 while Doble, her boyfriend, was on duty.

Biazon shrugged off Isafp claims that it did not have the capability to tap mobile phones.

"Well, they are shielded by EO 464; they can say anything because they are shielded from further scrutiny," he said, referring to the executive order that bars administration, police and military officials from appearing at congressional hearings without the President's consent.

'Clean it up'

Echoing Biazon, a military analyst said a thorough overhaul of the Isafp personnel and system should be the first order of the day for the AFP in view of the damning revelations at the Senate hearing.

"A new team should be brought in to do nothing but clean it up and set up a more reliable, secure system. They should strengthen their worst weaknesses," said the analyst, who asked not to be named because he is not authorized to speak.

In the case of the wiretapping, the analyst said he would not discount the possibility that the Isafp sought outside help in carrying it out.

He said that in other countries, it was standard practice for service providers to assist intelligence agencies and allow them access to facilities capable of transmitting as well as intercepting electronic signals.

The coup, according ...

From page A1

and catapulted Ms Arroyo to power in 2001.

Gonzalez also alleged that the group had the support of top opposition personalities and others with strong ties with the military. He did not elaborate.

Linking up with Reds?

Gonzalez said the intelligence report indicated that Capt. Nicanor Faeldon, who escaped from Fort Bonifacio last Dec. 14, and the four soldiers who escaped Jan. 17—1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan, 1st Lt. Nathaniel Rabonza, 1st Lt. Sonny Sarmiento and 1st Lt. Patricio Bumidang—were part of the destabilization plan.

The role of the five soldiers is to penetrate military camps and organizations to convince other soldiers to join the plot, according to Gonzalez.

He said he had seen the intelligence report in the Palace and that part of the rebel soldiers' supposed plan was to link up with the communists.

Gonzalez repeated his claim in an interview on television, adding that he considered the report "quite credible."

"I don't understand their (soldiers') ideology and their idealism," he told reporters. "They swear allegiance to the Constitution but they (associate) themselves with the NPA."

Security agency

Again citing intelligence reports, Gonzalez said the escape of the four Army mutineers had something to do with the "destabilization effort ... by some disgruntled elements in the military."

According to him, part of the plan involves the staging of arms-grabbing ("agaw armas") operations.

"I think there is a security agency involved here owned by a ranking opposition leader," he alleged.

De Villa warning

But Ms Arroyo's former Executive Secretary Renato de Villa warned that the relative ease with which the Magdalo 4 escaped and the cavalier manner in which Captain Faeldon had been reportedly going around military camps showed strong support for the rebels among active military officers.

De Villa said the escape of the mutineers reflected "disenchantment" at the failure of the Arroyo administration to deliver on its promises.

"The fact that Captain Faeldon could travel freely and even visit military camps at will showed that the Oakwood activists have the support of the people as well as of a dominant segment of the Armed Forces soldiery," De Villa said.

He said Ms Arroyo had promised to introduce reforms in the military.

"Having been given a chance, and missed it, it might be too late for the administration to recover the faith and confidence of the military rank and file, as well as of the people," De Villa added.

No need for alert

Incoming Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor appeared to downplay the Gonzalez claim.

Defensor said news of renewed efforts to unseat Ms Arroyo was no surprise and that no drastic actions were needed just because four mutineers had slipped out of their cells.

He said even business and the public were ignoring such destabilization talk.

"I don't think this escape should be treated in the sense that there should be a red alert or extreme action," he told reporters yesterday at an Ambassador Hotel forum. *With reports from Leila B. Salaverria and Norman Bordadora*

HOW THEY ESCAPED

ARMY INSPECTOR GENERAL MAJ. GEN. FERdinand Bocobo said he was still trying to determine the events that led to the escape of the Oakwood mutineers.

"There was really security lapse. We will determine what really happened so that this will not happen again," said Bocobo.

Based on initial investigation, the four escaped by scaling the wall of the detention center and cutting the first layer of barbed wire security fence, using "improvised tools."

They then climbed a 10-foot concrete fence using an improvised ladder.

"The improvised tools could have come from their visitors," Bocobo said.

After scaling the wall, the four made their way to the C-5 highway about a kilometer away.

A shadowy military group calling itself the Young Officers Union of the New Generation (YOUng) has claimed it facilitated the escape.

GMA: No attacks can stop us, Noli

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESTERday declared that no amount of destabilization talk could stop her from doing her job of governing the country.

Accompanied by Vice President Noli de Castro, Ms Arroyo marked the fifth anniversary of her rise to power by visiting a new resettlement site in Cabuyao, Laguna, for residents displaced by the rehabilitation of the North and South railways.

Ms Arroyo said her visit to Cabuyao would show the Filipino people that the "government was working for their needs, and (that it was) not a government preoccupied with the political noise and bickering."

In a townhall meeting, Ms Arroyo admitted that this was a time when "our most rabid and noisiest critics want to bring down the gains of the economy."

Unstoppable

"No attacks can stop us, Noli," Ms Arroyo said in Filipino, turning to De Castro, who promptly replied in the affirmative.

She said she, De Castro and the government were taking care of the people's housing needs and health services because "a family with a roof on its head would be helpful in revitalizing the economy."

"All of us will prosper as a nation even in the face of the bickering and anger coming our way," she said.

"The national interest always prevails over the self-interest of some leaders who want to grab power."

People 'sick and tired'

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye insisted that people were "sick and tired of political turmoil, since it is perceived as driven by self-interest."

"This is why they are losing faith in people power," Bunye said in a statement, noting the Palace belief that people "are more interested in having a clear direction for the nation rather than the reckless gambles at power."

Gloria vs Erap: History repeats itself or is it karma?

From page A1

ministration while groups loyal to Estrada are set to gather millions of signatures to restore the deposed leader in Malacañang.

"It wouldn't be difficult to gather signatures for President Estrada considering that he was elected with 11 million votes (in 1998)," according to former Nueva Ecija Gov. Edno Joson, leader of the Free and Restore Erap Estrada for Democracy and Order Movement.

The signature campaign for Estrada comes in the wake of a signature campaign by local executives, supportive of President Macapagal-Arroyo, to amend the Constitution according to the proposals made by the Consultative Commission.

The ConCom-draft constitution proposes a transition period wherein Ms Arroyo would be both President and Prime Minister under a parliamentary government mandated by a changed constitution.

Estrada and groups loyal to him believe he is still the duly elected President and argue that he only went on leave as President when he left Malacañang five years ago. Estrada maintains that he never resigned in contrast to the Supreme Court decision that he did abdicate his position.

To lead transition council

Estrada, in a brief interview, said the transition government should find an alternative leader and put in place a system of governance designed for systematic changes and radical reforms to ensure lasting solutions to poverty and corruption that have plagued the nation.

When asked if he was willing to head the transition council, Estrada said yes, then quickly added that he would retire from public office once the job of the transition council was completed. He said he no longer had any interest to become head of state.

The former President said representatives from major sectors of society should form a council and run the transition government for a period of 14 to 18 months. He added that once the transition government had done its work, all council members shall forever be banned from seeking public office.

"The avowed task of the council shall be completed within the specified period so that a new government truly elected by the people could take over," said Estrada, who was overwhelmingly elected into the presidency in 1998.

Estrada explained that the council for the brief transition period would be the country's policy-making body. It would be responsible for the abolition of Congress, the major revamp in the judiciary, the Ombudsman, the Commission on Elections and other constitutional bodies.

Power of the pen

He said the transition government should form a constitutional commission, composed of the best minds in the country.

"Members of this commission shall be appointed only after the names have been submitted by the major sector representatives and they will not be eligible to run in the first local and national elections to be held under the new Constitution," Estrada stressed.

The signature campaign for Estrada's restoration to the presidency would start in February, Joson said. The signatures would be presented to the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to gather international support to the "restore Erap" campaign.

"We are going to use the power of the pen. The pen is mightier than the sword. We don't want to resort to violence (in asking that Estrada be restored to the presidency)," Joson said at yesterday's assembly of groups supportive of the former leader inside UP Diliman.

Nothing to celebrate

The assembly coincided with the fifth anniversary of the culmination of Edsa Dos when Estrada left Malacañang on a barge after then Vice President Arroyo was sworn in as President.

"We don't have anything to celebrate on this day because nothing good for the country has resulted from the power grab that happened on Jan. 20, 2001," said Estrada in a statement read by his son Sen. Jinggoy Estrada before the assembly.

It was attended by at least 21 groups such as Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino, the People's Movement Against Poverty and the Generals for the Constitution, an organization of retired generals critical of Ms Arroyo. ▲

After final workout, Pacman feasts on chicken 'tinola'

From page A1

not have to worry about the penalty for excess weight in the super featherweight category, pegged at $250,000 for every pound by the Nevada State Athletic Commission.

This may not be the case with Mexico's Erik Morales, who admitted being something like two pounds overweight during the fight press conference last Wednesday.

Pacquiao's full meal on the eve of today's official weigh-in is a perceived advantage, not only because Morales had had to skip his own dinner. It also meant the masterful Mexican, a three-time world champion, had had to cut back on food and other nutrients in the run-up to his second showdown with Pacquiao.

Pacquiao, who ate full meals while deep in training in California, had earlier disclosed that he would try to dig in harder in the late rounds of the 12-round rematch—at a point when the underfed Morales could be expected to wear off and soften.

True condition

Of course, the true condition of the protagonists will be brought out in the open in today's official weight check.

Morales had insisted that he was coming in more prepared—mentally and physically—than last year, when he still had to shed pounds for another hour despite reporting for the weigh-in looking like a skeletal penitent.

Both fighters had been claiming to be in better shape than they were last year—a factor that led fight organizers to guarantee an epic rematch at the Thomas & Mack Center on Saturday night (Sunday morning in Manila).

For the training, Morales took in a new team headed by the veteran Jose Luis Lopez, a strict disciplinarian.

Pacquiao is backed by the same group led by the famous Freddie Roach, but according to the Filipino boxing superstar, he is more focused this time.

With the adjustments, he has been likened to a racing car that went through changes equal to an engine overhaul.

'Surprise' weapon

But what came as a surprise was the decision to again keep Pacquiao's final workout—where he supposedly made walk-over drills to review his new arsenal—from the public.

Manila-based reporters, together with two vanloads of fans, were disallowed entry into the borrowed gym Team Pacquiao had been using while in this gambling capital.

"Are they hiding something much bigger in his revised arsenal?" wondered one of the Manila-based reporters.

If anything, it could be the promised "surprise" weapon—actually a combination of punches, mainly anchored on a vastly improved right hand.

Pacquiao had himself claimed that the adjustments, together with the surprise package, were perfected based on what he and his team learned from their previous loss.

Nevertheless, Morales had been insisting that he could prove too good for Pacquiao because he also trained hard while improving on his previous winning formula.

'Fighting for RP'

"It's going to be a good fight. Both of us worked real hard and we're going to give you a good fight," Agence France-Presse quoted Pacquiao as saying during the weigh-in.

Pacquiao (40-3-2, 32 KOs) lost their first fight 11 months ago in Las Vegas. Morales (48-3, 34 KOs) dominated the middle rounds and hung on late to earn the unanimous decision.

"I will do my best, and I promise I will give this guy a fight. And I have to win this fight," Pacquiao said.

"All of my countrymen are hoping that I win this fight. If I beat Morales, it will be a big honor for me to go back to the Philippines with the victory. I want this very much for my country," he said.

Roach said Team Pacquiao learned a lot about Morales in the first encounter.

"He used his jab very effectively and so forth," Roach said of the Mexican.

The trainer added: "We didn't expect him to do as well as he did. And he backed Manny up when he put Manny on the ropes where he didn't need to be.

5 out of 10

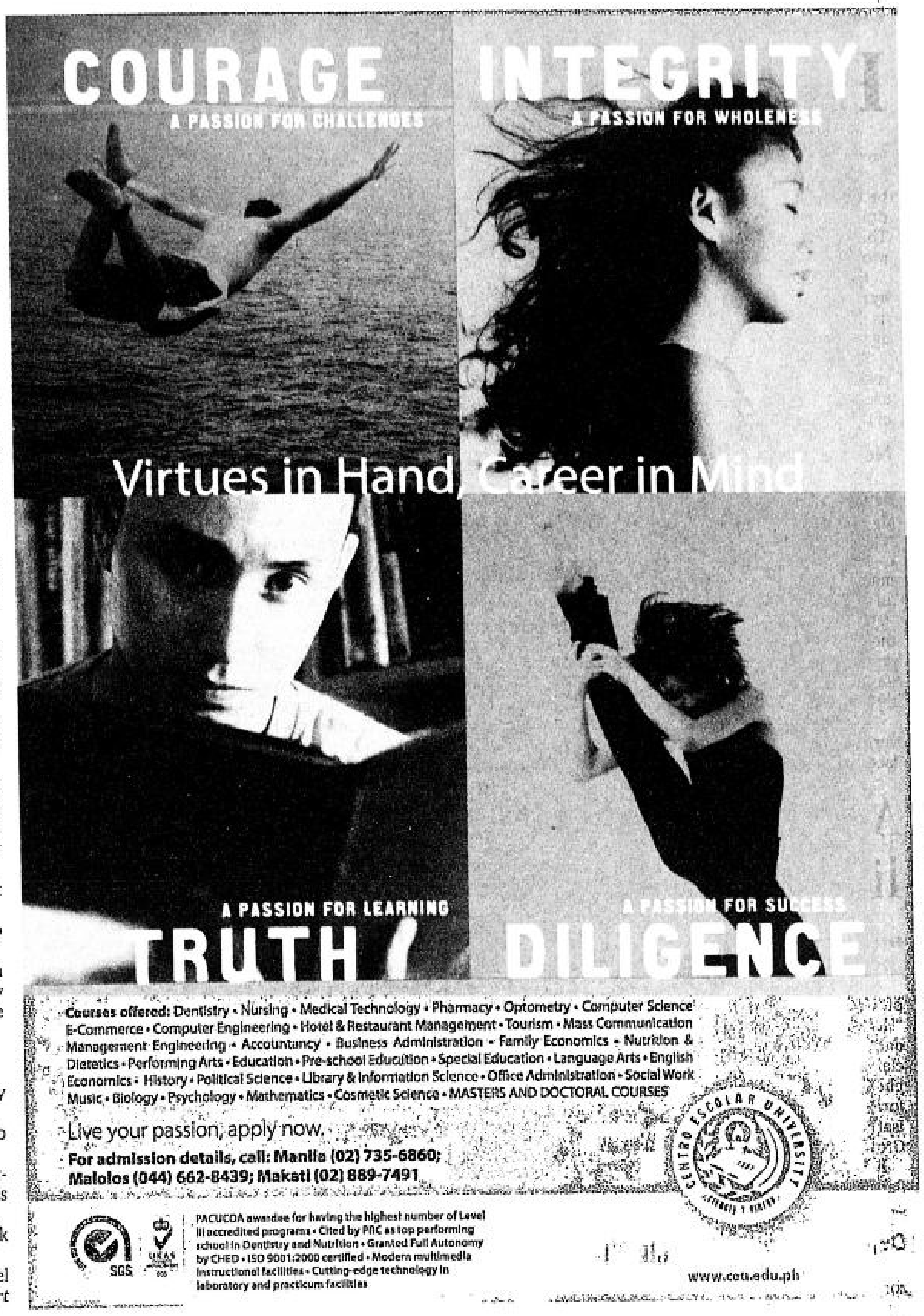
"So he fought a good fight, but not exactly what we expected. We expect it this time."

Morales said he was prepared for Pacquiao to try and outlast him.

"I don't think he's a technically sound fighter. I think he depends on his power," Morales said of his opponent, adding:

"If I had to rate his defenses, I would think he's a five out of 10.

"I'm prepared for this fight. I feel ready. I feel even better than last time." *With an AFP report*



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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

AHMED, a Palestinian boy, holds a photo of his uncle, suicide bomber Sammy Antar, in the West Bank city of Nablus shortly after his family found out he blew himself Jan. 19,wounding 30 people in Tel Aviv. REUTERS

Israel says Iran, Syria behind Tel Aviv blast

TEL AVIV, Israel—ISRAEL IS blaming Iran and Syria for funding and planning the suicide bombing attack in Tel Aviv that wounded 20, Israeli officials said Friday.

Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the Thursday afternoon bombing, which wrecked a fast-food restaurant in a rundown part of Tel Aviv's center.

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, whose Fatah party is facing a stiff challenge from Hamas, the other Islamic movement, condemned the attack as an attempt to sabotage the Jan. 25 election.

In a high-level security meeting to assess a response, Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said Syria planned the attack and Iran funded it, but Israel would not hit back at the Palestinians, according to security officials speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to give details to the media.

Mofaz said Is:ael would tighten security around Nablus, where the bomber lived, and target Islamic Jihad militants in raids.

Mofaz cited "clear evidence" about Syrian and Iranian involvement, the officials said, and would pass the evidence on to the US and Europe.

The explosion wrecked "The Mayor's Shwarma," a fast-food restaurant specializing in grilled meat sandwiches, in a rundown part of downtown Tel Aviv—an area hit several times before by Palestinian attackers.

The bomber, who witnesses said pretended to be a peddler selling disposable razors, walked into the restaurant and blew himself up, even though most of the customers were sitting at sidewalk tables, relatively far from the bomber, said police spokesperson Mickey Rosenfeld.

Twenty people were wounded, one seriously, and the 22-year-old bomber was killed.

"I ran and saw the terrorist in two pieces," said Shlomo Eliav, 49, who owns a kiosk around the corner and has experienced several attacks. "I'm sick of this. I'm thinking of moving" to another part of town, he said.

This was the seventh suicide bombing aimed at Israelis since Palestinian militants declared an unofficial truce in February 2005. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for all—six in Israel and one at a West Bank army checkpoint. *AP*

Chirac threatens to use nuke arms against 'terrorist' states

ILE LONGUE MILITARY BASE, France—President Jacques Chirac for the first time Thursday raised the threat of a nuclear strike on any state that launches "terrorist" attacks against France.

He also said France's doctrine of nuclear deterrence has been extended to protect the country's "strategic supplies," taken to mean oil.

"Leaders of any state that uses terrorist means against us, as well as any that may be envisaging—in one way or another—using weapons of mass destruction, must understand that they would be exposing themselves to a firm and appropriate response on our behalf," he said.

"That response could be conventional, it could also be of another nature," Chirac said in a clear reference to nuclear weapons during a visit to a French nuclear base in the northwestern region of Brittany.

The president said he was extending the definition of "vital interests" protected by France's nuclear umbrella to include allies and "strategic supplies."

The French press understood "strategic supplies" to include oil. Le Monde newspaper said that was aimed "probably also at those countries from which France imports part of its energy needs."

"If, theoretically, such interests were threatened by regional powers—Iran, North Korea?—France would react," the daily said.

The French president, however, did not single out any country in his speech.

He did indicate, though, that the previous Cold War stance of threatening massive and widespread destruction against enemies had been changed to a doctrine permitting a graduated and limited nuclear response.

"Faced with a regional power, our choice is not between doing nothing and annihilating it," he said. *AFP*

Google, US government clash over online search requests

SAN FRANCISCO—GOOGLE INC. IS REbuffing the Bush administration's demand for a peek at what millions of people have been looking up on the Internet's leading search engine—a request that underscores the potential for online databases to become tools of the government.

Google has refused to comply with a White House subpoena first issued last summer, prompting US Attorney General Alberto Gonzales this week to ask a federal judge in San Jose for an order to force a handover of the requested records.

The government wants a list of all requests entered into Google's search engine during an unspecified single week—a breakdown that could conceivably span tens of millions of queries. In addition, it seeks 1 million randomly selected Web addresses from various Google databases.

In court papers that the San Jose Mercury News reported on after seeing them Wednesday, the Bush administration depicts the information as vital in its effort to restore online child protection laws that have been struck down by the US Supreme Court.

Google competitor Yahoo Inc., which runs the Internet's second-most used search engine, confirmed Thursday that it had complied with a similar government subpoena.

Although the government says it isn't seeking any data that ties personal information to search requests, the subpoena still raises serious privacy concerns, experts said, especially considering recent revelations that the White House authorized eavesdropping on domestic civilian communications after the Sept. 11 attacks without obtaining court approval.

"Search engines now play such an important part in our daily lives that many people probably contact Google more often than they do their own mother," said Thomas Burke, a San Francisco attorney who has handled several prominent cases involving privacy issues. *AP*

Japan exec in Livedoor scandal kills self

TOKYO—THE SUICIDE OF AN investment firm executive questioned over suspected illegal activities at Livedoor Co. added an element of tragedy to scandal after the Internet firm's woes triggered stock market chaos this week.

But the incident surprised few in Japan, where suicide is not prohibited by religious beliefs and death has long been seen as a way to escape failure or protect loved ones from shame.

Indeed, ritual disembowelment, or "harakiri," was an accepted form of punishment for the samurai warrior class for hundreds of years.

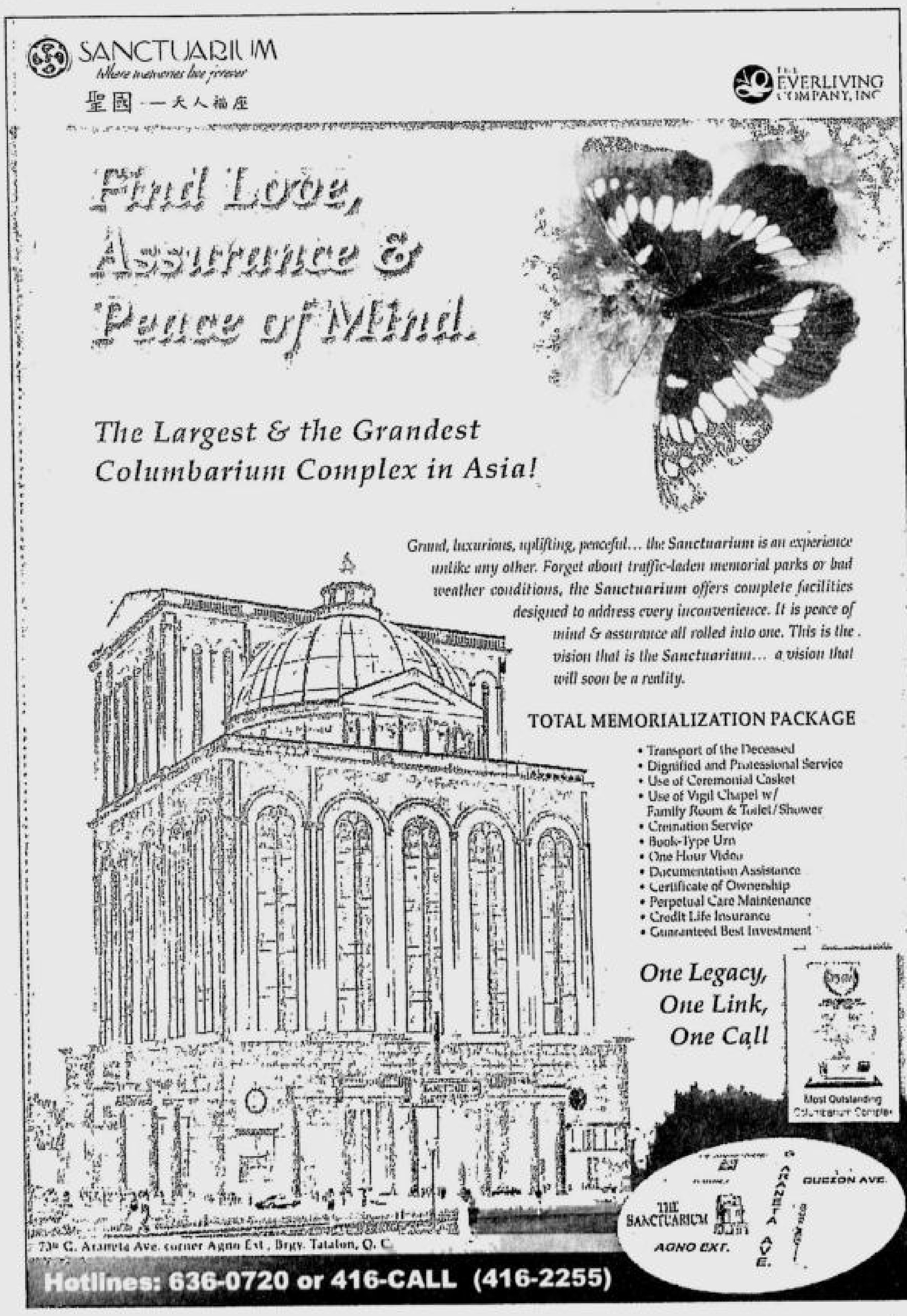
H.S. Securities head Hideaki Noguchi, 38, was found dead on Wednesday in a room at a hotel on the southern island of Okinawa from what police said appeared to be self-inflicted knife wounds.

Noguchi apparently took his own life after being quizzed at length by prosecutors who raided his home and office over alleged violations of security laws in multiple acquisitions at Livedoor, an affair some commentators are dubbing "Japan's Enron."

The exposure of a construction industry scam that has left thousands of homes vulnerable to collapse in an earthquake led to a suicide in November, while a chicken farmer and his wife killed themselves over an alleged bird-flu cover-up in 2004.

Scandals and bad-loan woes at Japan's banks in the 1990s resulted in multiple suicides.

"There is often the feeling of trying to make up for some wrongdoing that has caused trouble for one's family, for the managing director or other people," said Seizo Fukuyama, a professor of clinical psychology at Rikkyo University in Saitama, north of Tokyo. *Reuters*



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ACTRESS Angelina Jolie and her Cambodian son Maddox in a July 2, 2005 photo. A Los Angeles judge has granted Jolie's request to change the last names of her children to reflect Brad Pitt's status as their adoptive father. REUTERS

Jolie's kids get Brad Pitt's name

LOS ANGELES—A LOS ANGELES JUDGE ON Thursday granted Oscar-winning actress Angelina Jolie's request to change the last names of her children to reflect Brad Pitt's status as their adoptive father.

Superior Court Judge Linda Lefkowitz granted Jolie's petition during a brief and routine name change hearing that was not attended by either parent, a court clerk said.

The ruling means that Jolie's children, 4-year-old Maddox and Zahara, who just turned one, will now carry the last name Jolie-Pitt.

A spokesperson for Pitt, 42, confirmed last week that Jolie, 30, was pregnant with a child fathered by the actor, the first official confirmation of a relationship that had been the subject of furious tabloid news coverage.

Pitt and Jolie met in 2004 while working together on the film "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," in which they played married assassins ordered to kill each other.

Rumors of an affair heated up after Pitt and his ex-wife, former "Friends" star Jennifer Aniston, split up in January 2005.

Pitt also recently joined Jolie, a goodwill ambassador for a UN refugee agency, in efforts to promote various humanitarian causes, including fighting poverty in Africa. The actor accompanied Jolie to Ethiopia in July when she visited that country to complete the adoption of her infant daughter.

Jolie, who won an Oscar for best supporting actress for her role in the 1999 film "Girl, Interrupted," was divorced from actor Billy Bob Thornton in 2003. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

42 dead in Hungary crash

BUDAPEST—Forty-two slovak soldiers died when the military plane they were traveling in crashed in northeastern Hungary, Hungary's interior ministry said Friday. "There are 42 dead and a sole survivor," Tibor Dobson, who heads the interior ministry's disaster prevention unit, said. He said body parts of the victims were scattered at the crash site, making it difficult to count and identify the dead. The AN-24 military plane, which was en route from Kosovo to Slovakia carrying Slovak peacekeeping troops, burst into flames at the crash site near Telkibanya, close to the border with Slovakia. *AFP*

Taiwan-China flights

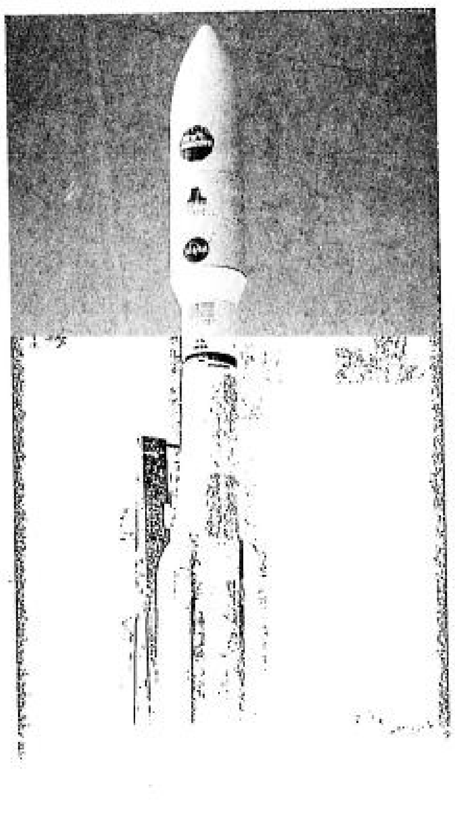
TAIPEI/SHANGHAI—Hundreds of Taiwanese arrived in China on Friday to celebrate the Lunar New Year festival, the only time of the year when diplomatic rivals Taipei and Beijing permit non-stop flights across the Taiwan Strait. The packed plane, belonging to Taiwan's China Airlines, arrived in grey, wet Shanghai at just after 10:30 a.m. for the biggest holiday in the Chinese-speaking world. It left on the return trip to Taipei two hours later. This year's charter flights have been expanded to allow any Taiwanese to fly, whereas last year's charters were restricted to China-based Taiwan business people and their families. The non-stop charters that run until Feb. 7 are the closest thing to direct flights across the Taiwan Strait. The planes technically must fly through Hong Kong or Macau air space, because permanent air links have been banned since Taiwan and China split at the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949. China considers self-ruled Taiwan part of its territory and insists on eventual reunification, but business ties are booming. "There should be direct flights between friendly countries anywhere in the world," said a Taiwanese businessman surnamed Hsu. *Reuters*

Spacecraft blasts off on 5B-km, decade-long mission to icy Pluto

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA—AN UNMANNED Nasa spacecraft the size and shape of a concert piano hurtled Thursday toward Pluto on a 5-billion-km journey to the solar system's last unexplored planet—a voyage so long that some of the scientists who will be celebrating its arrival are just taking their first physics class.

The New Horizons spacecraft blasted off aboard an Atlas V rocket in a spectacular start to the $700 million (euro579.81 million) mission. Though it is the fastest spacecraft ever launched, capable of reaching 57,924 kph, it will take 9½ years to reach Pluto and the frozen, sunless reaches of the solar system.

"God has laid out the solar system in a way that requires a certain amount of patience on the part of those who choose to explore it," Nasa administrator Michael Griffin said.



THE NEW HORIZONS spacecraft atop an Atlas V rocket lifts off from launch pad 41 at the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, Jan. 19. AFP

The probe, powered by 10.8 kg of plutonium, will not land on Pluto but will photograph it, analyze its atmosphere and send data back across the solar system to Earth.

The launch went off without incident, to the relief of anti-nuclear activists who had feared an accident could scatter lethal radioactive material.

Nasa had postponed the liftoff two days in a row because of wind gusts at the launch pad and a power outage at the spacecraft's control center in Maryland.

"It looked beautiful," said Ralph McNutt Jr. of the Johns Hopkins University of Applied Physics Laboratory, one of the mission's scientists. "I was getting a little bit antsy."

Pluto is the solar system's most distant planet and the brightest body in a zone known as the Kuiper Belt, made up of thousands of icy, rocky objects, including tiny planets whose development was stunted for unknown reasons. Scientists believe studying those "planetary embryos" can help them understand how planets were formed.

"We're realizing just how much there is to the deep, outer solar system," said Alan Stern, the mission's principal investigator. "I think it's exciting that textbooks have to be rewritten, over and over."

Pluto is the only planet discovered by a US citizen, Clyde Tombaugh in 1930, though some astronomers dispute its right to be called a planet. It is a celestial oddball—an icy dwarf unlike the rocky planets of Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars and the gaseous planets of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

New Horizons contained some of Tombaugh's ashes. His 93-year-old widow, Patricia, was in tears as she watched the liftoff from about four miles away, said daughter Annette Tombaugh-Sitze, who arrived with her family from New Mexico.

"It was so awe-inspiring to watch something like this," Tombaugh-Sitze said. "It's something you can't put into words. You just feel it."

The spacecraft will use Jupiter's gravity as a sling to shave five years off the trip, allowing it to arrive as early as July 2015.

The 1,054-pound spacecraft was loaded with seven instruments that will photograph the surfaces of Pluto and its large moon, Charon, as well as analyze Pluto's atmosphere Two of the cameras, Alice and Ralph, are named for the bickering couple from TV's "The Honeymooners." *AP*

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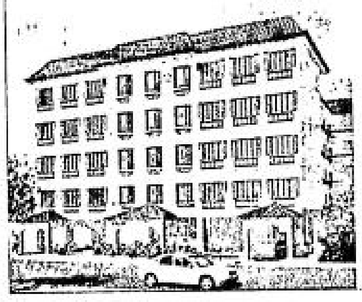

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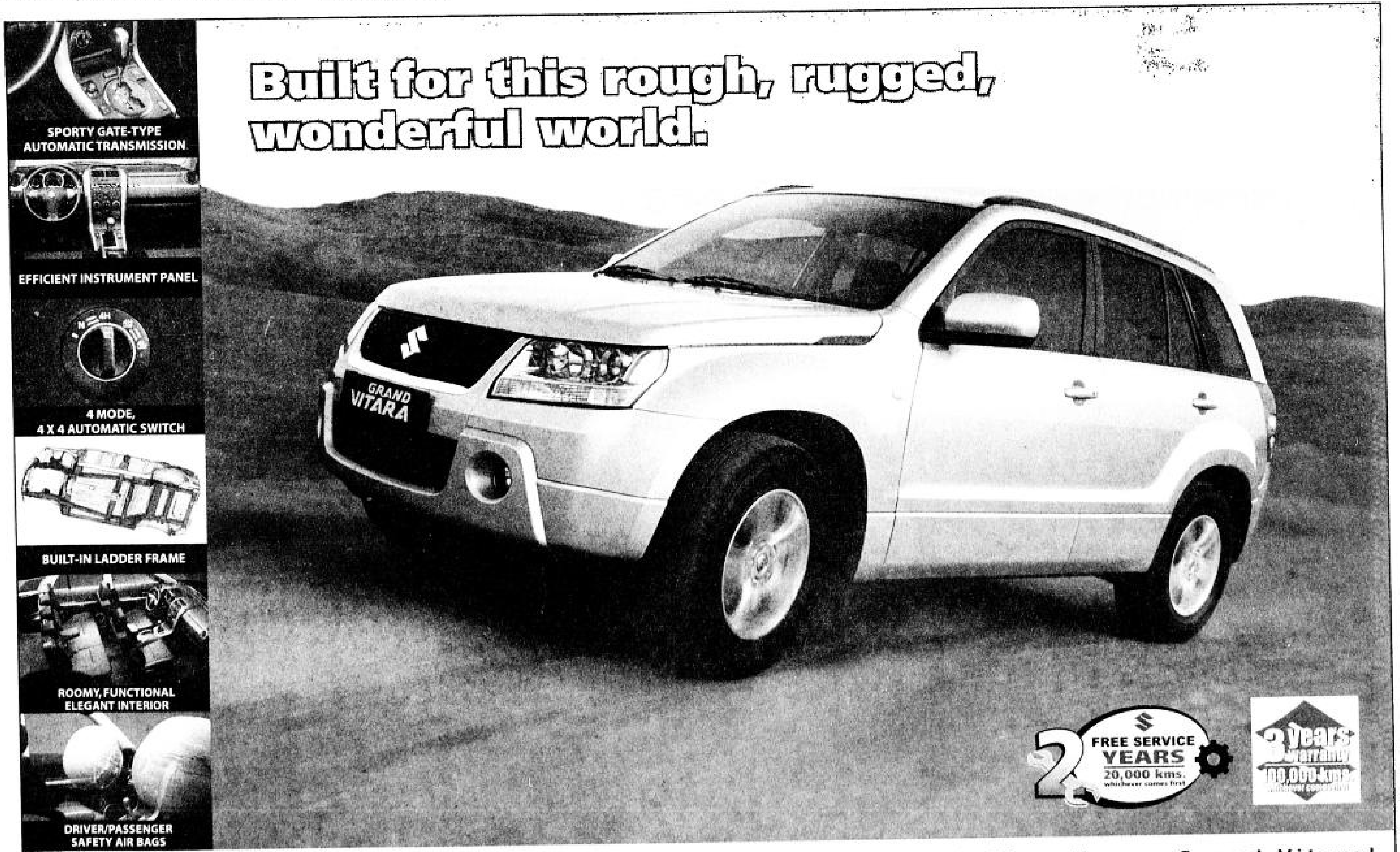
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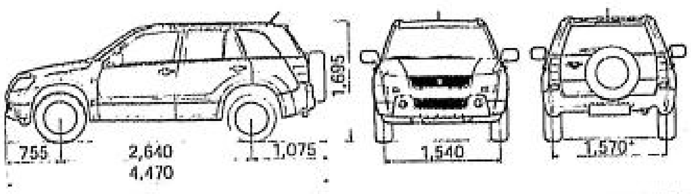

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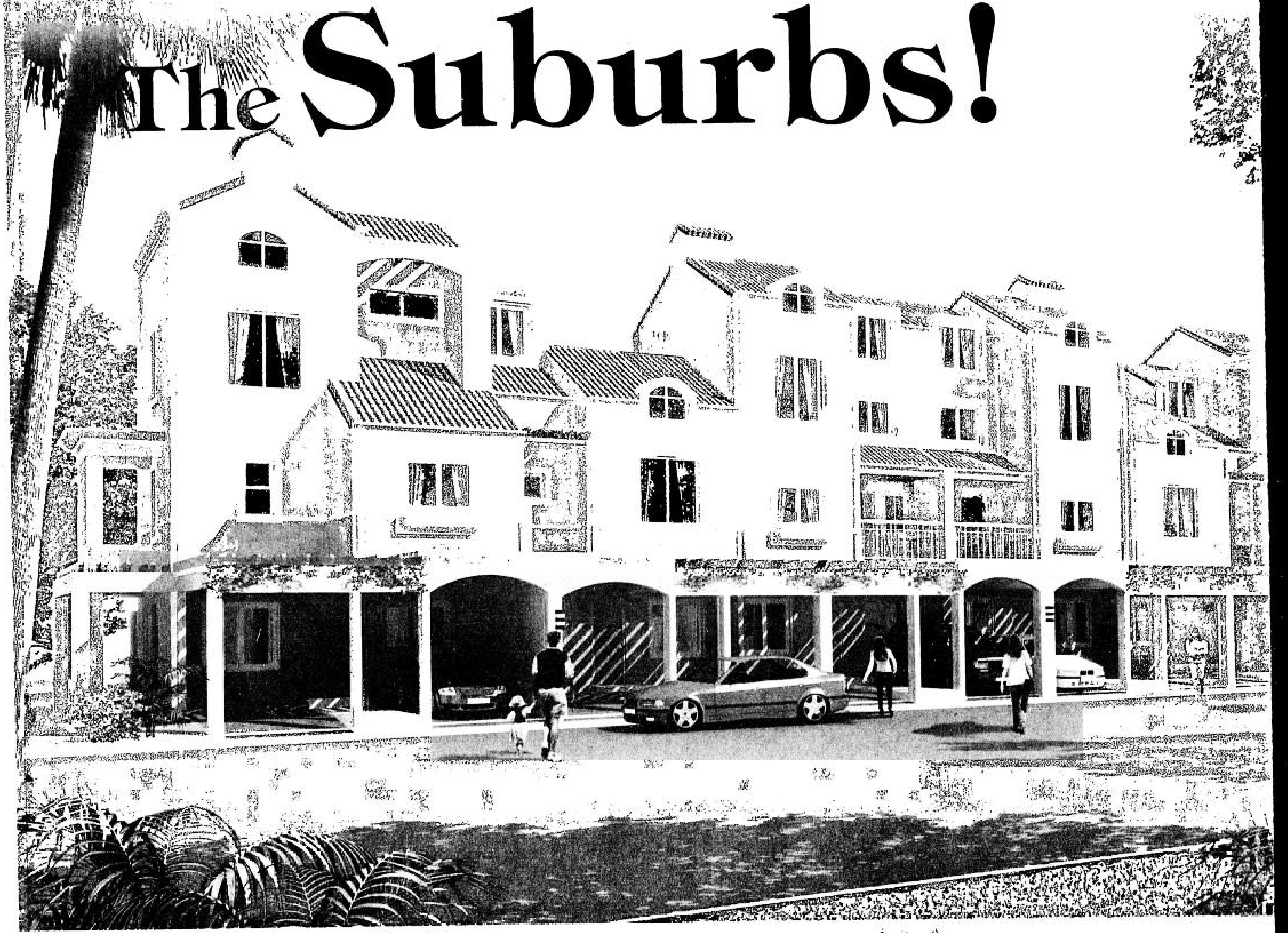

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A rare find

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- Can you swim laps after work?
- Where do your kids play after school?
- How long does it take them to get to school?
- Do you feel safe walking outside with your family?
- Do you know your neighbors?
- Do you see trees surrounding your immediate residence?
- Can you indulge in the soothing environs of a private garden?

If you find the answers to these questions unsatisfying, may we invite you to visit Community Innovation's brand new residential project: the Celadon Residences San Lazaro.

Conveniently located at the former site of the San Lazaro Hippodrome along A. H. Lacson (formerly Gov. Forbes) in Sta. Cruz Manila, this brand new development represents both a bold step forward and away from traditional city living, replacing the typical condominium or shophouse lifestyle with a more relaxed, intimate townhouse community. Spanning a total of only 200 units, Celadon is surprisingly loaded with outdoor lifestyle features – from abundant greenery erasing the city, to a hidden security system creating peace of mind, a pool and jogging path for greater well-being, a secured kids' zone, a place for a pickup game of basketball and even a private pavilion for your private or business functions.

While the residences were created to give a feeling of separation from Manila's noisy intrusions, the location gives owners an ideal proximity to best the city has to offer and even next to the region's best schools, medical facilities, not to mention the ever-flourishing district of Binondo. Best of all the residences are managed by the oldest and most trusted name in real estate, the Ayala Property Management Corporation - ensuring a secure, well maintained community for years to come.

Come visit us and see why Celadon Residences San Lazaro was created for those who want to get away without getting away.

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Experience quality living in Manila

Often, we find ourselves craving for the simple yet comfortable life that the suburbs have to offer: quiet, well-appointed, soothing and secure. After all, homes should be more than just having a roof over your head-it's about finding the right balance between practicality and comfort so you can live the life that you deserve.

The demands of the urban lifestyle usually means that your desire to live amidst tree-lined streets and sunlit parks must take a backseat so you can indulge in the convenience of city living. But what if the ideals of metropolitan sensibility and the easy pace of suburbia were combined so you can have the perfect home?

Developed by the lifestyle specialists of Community Innovations (an Ayala Land company), Celadon Residences San Lazaro combines the essence of the suburban lifestyle with the practicality of urban living. Only 20 minutes away from Binondo, this suburban neighborhood is an intimate village that will house only 200 homes within its landscaped façade.

The seamless layout of the entire village takes you away from the city and lets you experience a soothing lifestyle. From the grand main entrance, you'll be ushered into a world that is as remarkable as it is secure. The bright and airy Mediterranean-inspired architecture of each townhouse marries the natural ambiance of the surrounding environment with the charm of cozy interiors plotted to capture natural light and create the feel of a spacious home. Each unit features 3-bedrooms with provisions for a home office or guest room and a private garden to make sure that your home combines the tenets of leisure and functionality for everyone in the family. Peace of mind comes with the knowledge that Celadon is protected by state-of-the-art security system.

The spacious 4.2-hectare residential townhomes community will thrive on the city's old-world charm but still maintain its exclusivity. Beyond the surrounding greenery, the community also features amenities and recreational facilities centrally located in the neighborhood to encourage community interaction. Houses are grouped into clusters to make sure that relationships are made and cemented through proximity. This concept of cluster living creates the right balance between achieving a sense of community and personal privacy between neighbors. To convey its innate calm and soothing lifestyle, the village features verdant and beautifully landscaped environs. At Celadon, you can be assured that the ideals of a perfect home and the convenience that the city has to offer are right at your doorstep.

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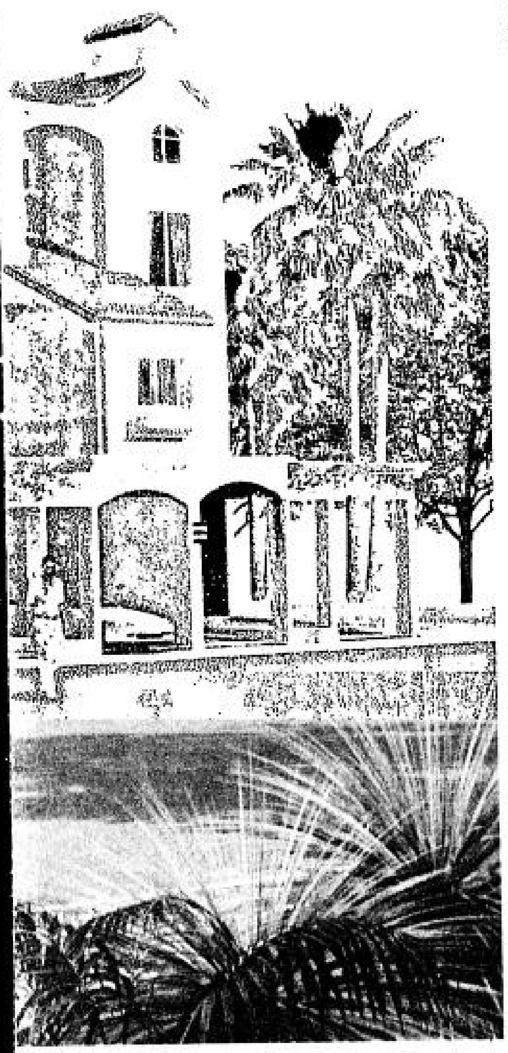

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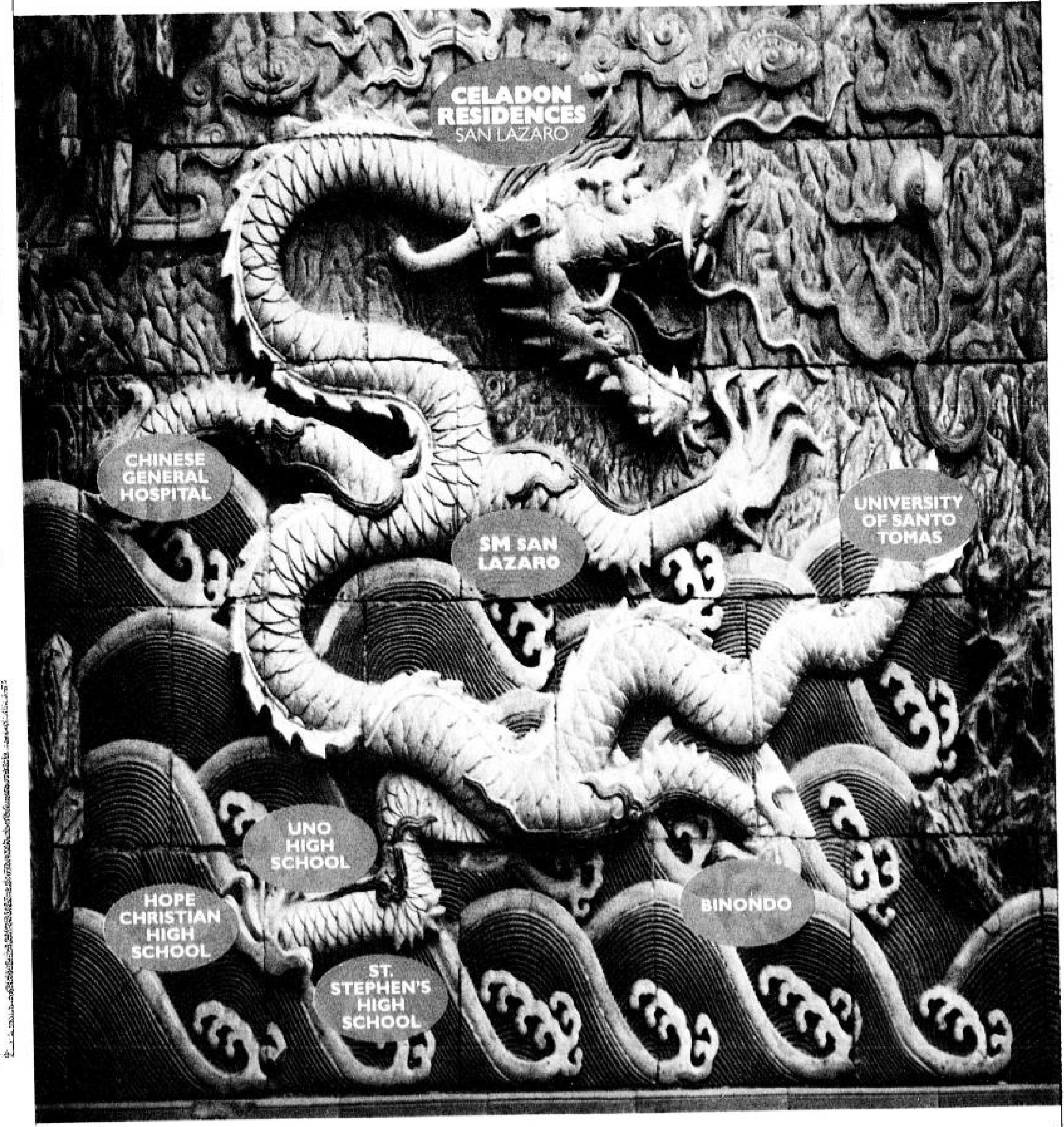
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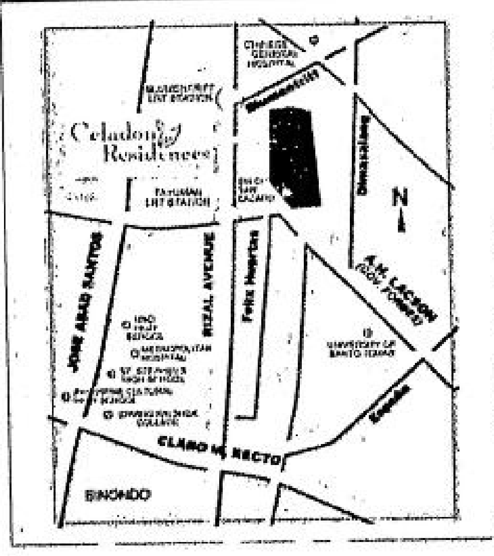
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OPINION

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Resurgent insurgency

EDITORIAL

EVEN AS THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES can't seem to shake off the monsters haunting the organization—corruption, political meddling, restiveness in its ranks (the Magdalo mutiny is only one manifestation), among other things—the New People's Army seems to be quickly regaining lost ground.

Only last Jan. 15, communist guerrillas raided the provincial jail in Batangas City to spring nine of their comrades in what was, perhaps, the most daring, brazen and well-planned NPA attack in recent years. The rebels, wearing military uniforms, pretended they were on a mission to turn over two prisoners and arrived at the provincial jail on board several vehicles, one of which bore a government plate. On the same day, NPA rebels ambushed a military convoy in Motiong, Samar, killing four soldiers and wounding eight others. Earlier on Jan. 6, rebels took over the police station in Albuera, Leyte, and carted away 30 firearms. In a separate attack launched that day, the guerrillas killed five policemen and three civilians in Claveria, Masbate. Last Jan. 2, armed men believed to be NPA rebels killed the police chief of Matnog, Sorsogon, and two other persons.

The January attacks are apparently a continuation of the NPA offensive that started after the Arroyo administration suspended the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantee (Jasig) in August 2005, following the Communist Party of the Philippines' refusal to resume peace negotiations. NPA spokesman Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal has boasted in an interview that the communists have initiated more than 200 attacks since then. Most of the attacks took the form of ambuscades of security forces and raids on military detachments or camps, paramilitary outposts and police stations, a number of them staged almost simultaneously or within hours of each other, albeit in different places.

The NPA attacks are worth noting not only because they are coming with greater frequency and with increasing boldness but also because they seem to indicate the rebel forces' growing strength and the wider popular support they are getting. Rosal has boasted that the latest attacks "were mere curtain raisers," and vowed that "more solid blows will be dealt upon the fascist forces to heighten the fall of the despotic US-Arroyo regime."

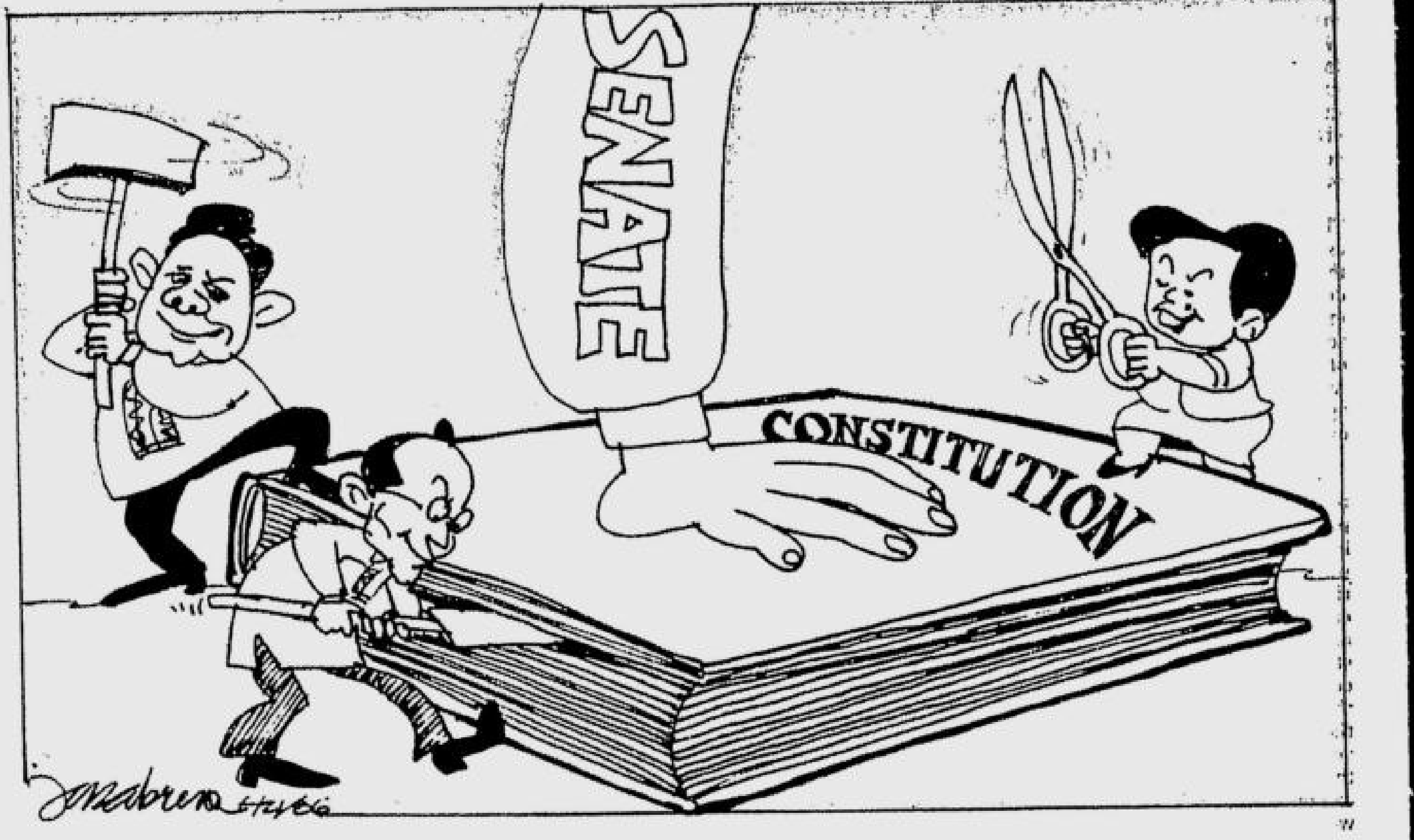
Rosal explains the Maoist insurgency's newfound strength by saying their guerrilla fronts have "mastered the strategy of consolidating forces to successfully carry out the desired goal in tactical offensives ... a plus factor to their growing strength and combat capabilities."

Such mastery, if indeed this has been achieved by the communist militants, may have greatly improved the success rate of NPA attacks. But the government would be better served if it looked elsewhere to find out where the NPA's renewed energy springs from.

Rosal says one factor that has helped ensure "successful guerrilla offensives" is the widespread support of the masses. But why would the masses be drawn to an ideology that has been discredited by the decline and fall of the Soviet Union, by China's—and more recently Vietnam's—increasingly successful experiment with capitalism, by recurring famines in North Korea, by supply shortages in Cuba, and most painfully, by the "killing fields" that Pol Pot created in communist Cambodia in the 1970s and by the CPP-NPA's own bloody purge of its ranks in the 1980s? Why would the masses side with "enemies of the state," when the government says it has cleared the runaway of obstructions and the economy is ready for takeoff?

Could it be that the Filipino masses have not heard or do not appreciate what their government is doing for them? Or is it because, despite the administration's frequent reaffirmation of its intention to improve their lot, a growing number of Filipinos remain poor and hungry?

Widespread poverty is bad enough. What makes the situation worse is continuing government neglect and inadequate basic social services, coupled with military abuses and violations of the human rights of ordinary citizens. If the resurgence of the communist insurgency is anything to go by, then we may be back to where we were during the final years of the Marcos dictatorship. That was the time when the government earned the well-deserved reputation as the principal recruiter for the NPA.



The difficulties of changing the Constitution

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THERE WAS A TAGALOG MOVIE SHOWN DURING the early 1930s that was completely forgettable except for its intriguing title. It was called "X3X" and had its own charismatic appeal. Somehow I have given it a sinister meaning and associate it now with the three figures desperately anxious to revise the present Constitution. The 3 is President Macapagal-Arroyo, and the 2 X's are former President Fidel V. Ramos and Speaker Jose de Venecia. They want the change done by the middle of this year.

The Abueva Commission created by GMA has come up with the proposal to extend the terms of all elective officials until the end of her own term in 2010. It is an absurd brainchild, probably mothered by President Arroyo herself, to make the intended replacement of the present government with the parliamentary system more palatable. It has met with widespread disdain except from the intended beneficiaries who will, if they succeed in having it accepted, have a free ride to their present positions for another three years.

The object of the Commission is obviously to please Ms Arroyo if not, more realistically, to obey her instructions. Ramos is among those who have denounced the shocking plot and has given the President an ultimatum to reject it before a fixed deadline that he has lately extended, as expected; his characteristic excuse is that he is "flexible." De Venecia, for his part, agrees with GMA that it is all up to Congress, the lower House of which is under the Speaker's (and the President's) thumb. It is a notorious fact that anything personally beneficial to its members, like the swinish pork barrel, is welcomed by them with greedy approval.

The X3X are united on the need to revise the Constitution, not necessarily for the good of the country. They have their own personal agenda that are hard to disguise. GMA is scheming to remain in power and redeem herself under the parliamentary system. De Venecia is hoping to enter Malacañang through the back door with the support of his pampered Rainbow Coalition that is easy to seduce. Ramos says he will not run for the Parliament to be its prime minister if it is created, but this assurance may also be "flexible."

The three are certain of their persuasive abilities and do not seem to be worried over the constitutional obstacles. Sen. Joker P. Arroyo has thrown cold water on their uneducated designs and says they cannot change the charter without the participation of the Senate. Simply put, the Senate will never agree to commit suicide with the creation of a unicameral Parliament that will demote such outstanding senators as Lito Lapid and Bong Revilla as political wash-outs suddenly outside the *kulambo*. I can imagine some wags saying, "So much the better and good riddance!"

According to De Venecia and his horsemen, the Constitution provides that it may be revised or amended directly by three-fourths of all the members of Congress acting as a constituent assembly or by a constitutional convention to be called by two-thirds of all the members of Congress. As it does not say that the two chambers shall vote separately, the required votes may all come from the House of Representatives despite the opposition of the outnumbered Senate.

The strict constructionists argue that the Constitution must be interpreted literally and would have categorically said so if it wanted the two chambers to vote separately as it did in, say, the declaration of a state of war. The counter-argument is that Congress being a bicameral body, its two chambers should vote separately, even if the Constitution does not specifically say so. I will have something to say about this rather illogical submission in a later column.

The other allegedly available method is easily dismissible. The advocates of charter change are threatening to use as an irresistible alternative the right of the people to directly change the Constitution through the initiative allowed under Art. XVII. Sec. 2 of the Constitution. The vote needed is only 12 percent of the total number of registered voters, of which every legislative district must be represented by at least 3 percent of its registered voters. They say they can easily observe these requirements.

The premise is correct, but its interpretation is erroneous. The Constitution may be **revised** or **amended** by Congress or a constitutional convention under Art. XVII, Sec. 1, but only **amendments**, or piece-meal changes, may be effected by initiative under Sec. 2. The contemplated change of the government from presidential to parliamentary will involve a **revision** and not a mere amendment. It's like overhauling the entire engine compared to just repairing the alternator.

The problems here presented may ultimately be elevated to the Supreme Court, where the majority of the members owe their appointment to President Arroyo. There is the strong suspicion that their decision will not be impartial, but I do not share that doubt. At any rate, let us keep our fingers crossed. A reliable gauge of their independence will be their ruling on the long-pending challenge to Executive Order No. 464 that the nation is awaiting with bated breath.

What games are the military playing?

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF GAMES THE military is or has been playing. But whatever they are, they can't be good for us ordinary mortals or, for that matter, the country. Moreover, they don't reflect well on the military itself.

Item: The military intelligence service has been neck-deep in the wiretapping of persons, both in government and in the opposition, who cannot, even under the most contorted of mental gymnastics, be considered to be military or national security risks. Which means it either decided to get involved in partisan political activities or allowed itself to be used for private gain. There has surely been abuse of authority here, and yet those who are responsible still have not been identified after six months of supposed investigation, much less charged, if only with "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman."

Item: The Oakwood Mutiny took place in July 2003. The depredations of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia came to light in January 2005 (one and a half years later). The court martial of Garcia has been completed and he has been found guilty of "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman" and sentenced to two years of hard labor, which, we are told, consists of sweeping his environs. But the court martial of the officers involved in the 2003 mutiny, who are also charged with "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman," has still not been completed. Question: How difficult is it to decide that someone's conduct is unbecoming, which presumably can range from palming a CD from a store to stealing close to half a billion pesos? Does the difficulty lie with the officer part, or the gentleman part?

And whatever happened to the generals and officers responsible for the bankruptcy of the Armed Forces' pension fund and the loss of hundreds of millions of pesos belonging to soldiers? One thing's sure: No one has been subjected to court-martial proceedings (or criminal prosecution for those already retired). I guess what they did is considered conduct becoming officers and gentlemen.

Item: The four recent "escapees" were granted bail by the Makati regional trial court, as were reportedly (information supplied by lawyers Teddy Te and Rene Saguisag) all the 31 officers involved in the Oakwood mutiny, except for the three considered to be the ringleaders (Antonio Trillanes, Milo Maestrecampo, Gerardo Gambala). Which means that these "escapees" should have been free on bail to begin with. Why were they still in military custody? Because, my informants say, that was the desire of the AFP chiefs of staff (Efren Abu and Generoso Senga). Te said that while court-martial charges were filed against these "escapees," they were subsequently withdrawn—and then reinstated when the RTC allowed them to go free on bail. In other words, they were incarcerated not by order of a civilian court but by military order.

Item: One of the "escapees"—Lt. Lawrence San Juan—apparently had already "escaped" (this information came from Mike Enriquez's field reporter over dzBB) over the Christmas holidays, but came back after New Year, without publicity. Which could mean that he came back so that he could escape to greater publicity.

Item: There is no way anyone could have escaped from the area in which the escapees were being held, according to Te and Saguisag. Thus, the escape was no escape. It was an exit done with the help of military authorities. The four needn't have announced that they had help from other soldiers, it was obvious. Their statement was clearly for psy-war purposes.

So now it must be obvious that the military is playing some deep games (unless they are just totally inept and confused). What kind of games, who the players are, what side they are on, and what the stakes are remain unclear. Either way, it is no wonder there is unrest and dissatisfaction among the young officers and the rank and file.

But that does not let the Oakwood mutineers off the hook, much less the "escapees." Their statement entitled, "In Fulfillment of Our Sworn Duty," has to be one of the most graphic illustrations of the saying that patriotism is the last refuge of scoundrels.

These renegades claim that they are defending the Filipino people (and therefore, by implication, they are patriots). And yet, how do they describe the Filipino people? These are people who "have been reduced to mere spectators" and masses "lulled into inaction and acquiescence." In other words, idiots who must be saved from themselves.

They say they "bolted" from the repression of a bogus regime. Well, "bolted" is about right, because one cannot call leaving from an open door an escape. But what repression are they talking about? And what bogus regime? It was not the civilian government that repressed them; the Makati RTC granted them bail. Any repression was committed by their superior officers in the military.

And yet they very carefully make no allusions to their superior officers as a bogus regime, probably because they are creatures of the "mistah" culture. So the bogus regime they refer to has to be the civilian Arroyo administration, which they have judged (self-appointed) in behalf of an idiot people. Are they also saying that they launched their coup attempt in 2003 in anticipation of a bogus 2004 regime?

Spare me from these self-styled saviors. They are more like armed thugs who are drunk with power or the desire for it.

Coup rumors hurt investments

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THAT THE MAGDALO REBELS ESCAPED WITH the aid of other military personnel is obvious. The question is how extensive their support is in the military organization and who are the politicians funding them, as was the case in the Oakwood mutiny. Their escape has fueled coup rumors, which are totally deplorable and condemnable for various reasons. One is that these will again hurt the economy, just as the failed coup attempts during the Aquino years set back economic recovery. This is particularly lamentable now that the economy has been exhibiting lately signs of vigorous recovery.

Today the peso is at its strongest in three years. The 91-day Treasury bill rate has fallen to its lowest in three years. Economists say this is because the Arroyo administration has not gone into big domestic borrowings, owing to its more efficient management of the budget deficit as a result of zealous fiscal reforms. Moreover, both the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority headed by Lilia de Lima, reported that aggregate investments for 2005 rose 10 percent over 2004—despite last year's difficulties.

* * *

The coup rumors will definitely hurt our prospects again. As AB Capital Securities Inc. put it, while investors will be cautious of the high energy prices and political rumblings, it would be the latter that "may pose the biggest risk factor for the local market" which has become "nervous" about persistent coup rumors and calls for President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down. Another reason to condemn these coup efforts is that political power flowing from the barrel of the gun is worse than empowering the most corrupt politicians. At least, we can vote the politicos out if we band together. But those who gain power through a military coup can only be removed by a counter-coup, which would plunge the country into endless agony and strife, negating all our democratic gains. Few things can be more lethal than unbridled political power in the hands of young military hotheads with some brains, but also plenty of screwed-up idealism and a messianic complex.

* * *

Sen. Joker Arroyo was correct when he said, "Historically, US interest in the Philippines has always been military, not economic and that remains unchanged up to the present." But this time, he noted, the Visiting Forces Agreement is being put to a test, "not on its military implications, but on an emotional issue that has plagued all US-Philippines military treaties in the past, namely, the question of jurisdiction over criminal offenses committed by US servicemen." Indeed, this emotional issue seems to becloud objective thinking.

Take the term "custody," which is the crux of the controversy. The Department of Foreign Affairs has been criticized for seemingly accepting the US position without question. Former VFA executive director Amado Valdez argues, however, that while the treaty provides for custody of the US servicemen by US military authorities, they are not exempt from complying with our court processes, such as the serving of the warrant of arrest. These are two different things, he stresses, noting that under the process, after the accused are finger-printed and their photos taken, the local court "will have no alternative but to order their commitment to the US authorities if they so request through a motion." Valdez says the failure of the US Embassy to surrender the servicemen "can be construed as a violation of the VFA."

* * *

Our militants have become emotional, but apparently the bigger failure belonged to the executive branch in President Joseph Estrada's time and the Senate then, which did not anticipate the need for a provision for revision or renegotiation of defective or one-sided clauses. Interestingly, some senators in 1999, when the Senate ratified the VFA, are still around, like Franklin Drilon, Sergio Osmeña, Miriam Santiago and Juan Flavier. They all overlooked this crucial need. But I suppose it's no different from having a new house constructed: one has to live in it in order to see how to tailor its parts to one's actual needs. Santiago now argues that the VFA should be abrogated so that the United States would be forced to enter into a new one that would contain proper safeguards for the Filipinos' benefit. So be it. But this time let's study the new treaty well so as to avoid mistakes.

* * *

Jovito Salonga, chair emeritus of the Liberal Party, must have despaired a bit at the specter of the party celebrating its 60th anniversary badly divided. LP president Drilon led one celebration in Makati and LP chair Lito Atienza another one at Plaza Miranda, with President Arroyo in attendance. Atienza objected to the way Drilon and a few allies carried out their call for GMA's resignation last July 8 without adequate consultations. This has rent the party, and now Salonga has offered to "serve as an instrument of reconciliation between the two camps." In his message at Plaza Miranda, the former Senate president viewed the LP division in his characteristically philosophical way, tracing its beginnings historically to the rivalry between Presidents Roxas and Osmeña after the war.

Tonight the Drilon faction fetes Salonga with a testimonial dinner during which it will sing paeans to him. But nothing there could rival his own testimony to 58 years of wedded love between him and Lydia, as gleaned from the Christmas card he sent to friends. It features a photo of his entire family taken two years ago, just before her mild stroke, and a brief report saying, "she has recovered beautifully—she can walk around the Valle Verde 3 park, she dances in our warm spring pool in Pansol, and she has regained her memory. She now remembers she has a faithful, loving husband!"

* * *

Catch Speaker Jose de Venecia dialogue with Cecile Alvarez and yours truly at our dzRH program tomorrow at 9:15 p.m., on Charter change.

Watch out for 'Big Time'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HOT ON THE HEELS OF "ANG PAGDADALAGA Ni Maximo Oliveros," known to its devotees as simply "Maxi," the independently produced digital film "Big Time" starts its commercial run next week on Jan. 25 at all SM Digital Cinemas, with a "Red Carpet" premiere at SM Megamall Cinema 1 on Jan. 23.

The young people behind "Big Time" say they hope to at least duplicate "Maxi's" success—if not in international film competitions, then at least at the local box-office. "Maxi" exceeded all expectations for a small, independent, non-commercial local film, lasting for over two weekends in commercial theaters and holding its own against such a formidable competitor as the global blockbuster "King Kong."

No one, of course, expects "Big Time" to out-Kong Hollywood products, but chances are good for a respectable showing at the tills. During the Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival, where it made its debut alongside "Maxi" and best picture awardee "Pepot Artista," "Big Time" was a decided crowd favorite, praised for its "irreverent humor and in-your-face style." It may be faint praise to say that it was the "most commercial" of the Cinemalaya finalists, but isn't popular appeal one test of a movie's success? Unless, of course, one wishes to cater only to an art-house crowd.

Walking the tightrope between outright commercialism and artistic snobbery is the challenge young filmmakers face today. Especially these days, when the local movie industry seems to be groping around for a tried-and-tested formula to win back the loyalty of local audiences. Despite some box-office successes, the number of movies being made today has fallen drastically from even just five years ago.

Will movies breaking out of the mold of hoary formulas and trite treatments—the likes of "Maxi" and "Big Time"—save the day for the Filipino film industry? Only if local audiences show their support and turn up in droves for "Big Time" come Jan. 25.

* * *

AS many may know by now, I do have an ulterior motive for pushing "Big Time" well, big time.

One of the movie's producers is my niece Coreen, who this early in her career already uses a "screen name": Monster Jimenez. She is also a co-scriptwriter, an editor and was responsible for casting the movie.

"Big Time" was first conceptualized as a storyline to be pitched to Fil-Am actor Ernie Reyes Jr. (best remembered as one of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles) who was visiting the country in search of movie material. When nothing came of this, Mario Cornejo, Coreen's partner in Arkeo Films and "Big Time's" eventual director, decided "on a whim" to submit their storyline to the Cinemalaya competition. When "Big Time" was chosen one of the semi-finalists, Cornejo and Coreen sat down and over several stormy sessions (I heard) hammered out a screenplay. When their script was chosen as one of the 10 finalists (though only nine eventually became full-length films), the young filmmakers finally had the wherewithal to make their movie, working with the seed money of P500,000 granted to each finalist, and raising funds from other sources as well.

Astonishing as it may seem, "Big Time" was completed on a budget of "less than P1 million," Coreen says. The modest finances are evident in the movie, but not in the acting (the mixed cast of recognized actors and newbies turn in respectable and credible performances) nor in the manic camera work and witty and really funny lines and dialogue.

Which just goes to show that a big budget and spectacular effects do not a good movie make—at least not all the time.

* * *

ALL RIGHT, OK, "Don't Give Up On Us" is indeed formulaic and so cluttered with "*kilig*" moments that it borrows scenes from every romantic genre, from Korean telenovelas to Hollywood weepies.

But I like the movie and have even watched it twice, even braving the long line of gossipy moviegoers at last Sunday's showing at Gateway. So sue me. It's obvious by now that I've been a long-time "Piolo-Juday" groupie, and it's heart-warming to find that our long wait for a new screen pairing has been rewarded with a movie that's well-made, well-acted, and doesn't exploit or insult our loyalty to the love team.

A friend in the industry says the "mega blockbuster" tag given to the film is not just hype, and that its impressive opening weekend take of P18 million has taken the movie business by surprise, especially since "conventional wisdom" has it that after the Metro Manila Film Festival, local moviegoers would be so sated with Filipino films that they would rather stay away for a while.

How to explain the movie's success? Both times I watched the movie, I spotted groups of women (and people with women's hearts) filing in together and eagerly sharing scoops and gossip on the leads. If anything, "Don't Give Up On Us" is proof of "woman-power" at the box office, at least for local movies.

* * *

THOUGH the movie is a testament to the enduring draw of their love team, "Don't Give Up On Us" also proves how good Judy Ann Santos and Piolo Pascual are individually, as actors. Though women moviegoers would gladly pay P120 just to sit through two hours of Piolo in a tight T-shirt and tighter jeans (though I could do without the shoulder-length tresses), he showcases his dramatic chops quite effectively here. Judy Ann carries off her role as a driven, if emotionally repressed and controlling, advertising executive quite credibly, and delivers her comic punch lines with zing.

Much of the movie's appeal also lies in its script, with clever one-liners and zippy exchanges, though sometimes the characters' amazing articulateness strains credulity.

Still, overall, "Don't Give Up On Us" marks a good beginning for another strained year for Filipino movies.

The generation gap

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

FOR THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS, MY children have been trying to drag me into the 21st century, with me yelling and screaming in protest. Actually, it started more than a couple of years ago. Some time in the 1990s, my eldest son insisted that it was imperative I buy a computer and forthwith proceeded to drive me to some store in SM Megamall with all sorts of gadgets that he picked out. At the end of this shopping expedition of which I had no say, I was handed a bill that at the time was enough to buy me two dozen manual typewriters and probably a couple of electric ones. He also failed to mention that due to my being technically challenged, I would have to hire a tutor just to learn how to turn the darn thing on.

The latest attempt to get me up to date with technology came after a virus attack on my floppy diskettes made everything there disappear. My children told me they had to be replaced by something smaller than my thumb and which contains 1 gigabyte and is capable of hoarding 150 (or was it 200?) articles. I tried to tell them that I didn't think I'd live long enough, but that didn't seem to bother them.

Do not ask what a gigabyte is because I don't know. The last time my son picked up his cellular phone and said, "Low bat," I asked who it was and he nearly choked. Well, OK, that was some years ago and I've since become more sophisticated. My owning a cell phone is also due to my children, since personally I would have preferred a new pair of shoes.

But what I really want to tell you is that it seems like it was only yesterday when most people I knew were normal. I mean, we all had original sin, which explained most things. On the other hand, my children's friends are all dysfunctional. My children are apparently dysfunctional, too, which of course, makes the whole family dysfunctional. Does one go to Confession these days (excuse me, Reconciliation) and say, "Bless me Father for I'm dysfunctional?" Come to think of it, why should I be blamed for not functioning properly?

Almost no one is normal these days. How many obsessive-compulsives do you know, including yourself? When I was growing up, Tia Mameng was considered at best "a little odd" and at worst "eccentric." The fact that she would go to market and address the vendors in Spanish didn't make her schizoid. People would say she had lost her marbles or she was "off." Her own family thought she was neurotic. She thought I was my older sister and would reminisce for hours on end about the nuns in St. Scho where I never went.

But everyone knew there was one in every family—or maybe two? That being the case and since Tia Mameng wasn't really a menace to society, no one thought she needed to see a psychiatrist. After all, she wasn't crazy.

And the paintings! Whenever you went to your friend's house, there were polite oil paintings of happy people or nice bucolic landscapes of nipa huts and smiling *dalagang bukid*. Since everyone used paintings to fill up empty spaces on walls, it was assumed that these were reasonably priced and the children were happy to inherit them—later to be pleasantly surprised to discover that they now cost gazillions. This only proves that people will pay a lot of money for happy paintings.

Family doctors would take care of everything from the common cold to pneumonia and even drop in on their patients. (This is unheard of today when they insist you go to the hospital, which everyone knows is a breeding place of bacteria and viruses.)

Nowadays, phonebooks are replete with names of specialists of every hue and practice. There's no such thing as a dentist who does everything from root canal to cleaning your teeth and making your caps like Dr. Badodeng used to. It seems that everyone's in some field of specialization.

I would imagine that we've all got the names of several psychiatrists and psychologists and that every other person is on Prozac. If you're not, you'll be told you probably should be.

It's a much more complicated world, which is probably why people get up in the morning anxious and go to bed anxious. The typical male of the species is Charlie Brown, not Rhett Butler. Most people aren't content with "their lot" which is an old-fashioned phrase referring to one's life and fortune and not real estate. (To be fair, it wouldn't be surprising if most Filipinos, with the exception of their leaders, aren't content with their lot, but that's another story.) First, there are all those whitening agents for sale all over the place. They don't state whether we'll end up looking like Michael Jackson. Then, there are dozens of talk shows discussing liposuction and ads on nose jobs and eye jobs and growing hair that has fallen off. It doesn't help that the models for these ads have perfect figures and faces. The inference is that you, too, can be perfect if you have all kinds of things changed from what God gave you. You may even be lucky if you suffer from migraines, because doctors are using Botox injections that not only remove your headache but the lines on your face, too.

You realize that once upon a time if your pulse was racing, you couldn't concentrate on anything for more than a minute or you couldn't make sense of what your mother was telling you, it meant you were in love. Nowadays, it just means you're having an anxiety attack.

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

Life as a girl

THE HAIR ON MY LEGS FINALLY CAME OFF.

I am no cave-dweller, but before tonight, I couldn't see any use for shaving or waxing my legs. Up to now, it just seems so primitive. It's like plucking one's eyebrows. It seems barbaric to hurt oneself for the sake of looking more beautiful. I have sworn to myself that I would never become a slave to beauty, but I can't help it this time. I've got a wedding to attend. Besides, I've already been initiated, and there's no turning back.

YOUNG BLOOD

Genevieve Claire L. Hermoso

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

It started with a trip to the beauty salon several months ago. I went there to have my bothersome blackheads removed. My beautician must have been so much bothered by my bushy eyebrows that she volunteered to shape them for free. I was in no position to say no. I was lying on my back and she was holding a razor. It would have been crazy of me to disagree with her. So, the woman shaved my bushy eyebrows with her razor blade.

After the procedure, I looked like a transvestite—the kind who always has a surprised look on his face. When I got home, people noticed my new eyebrows but just kept quiet about it. At work, my colleagues asked me what I had done to myself. I told them about the crazy woman with a razor who had shaved my eyebrows for free.

Since I'm too lazy to go to the salon to have my eyebrows shaped every week, I do it at home now.

From a store, I bought my first ever eyebrow plucker, a very handy instrument—of torture. My first eyebrow-plucking experience was traumatic. It was so painful pulling one hair after another, one at a time. I had to will myself to continue the masochistic rite. But over time, I got used to it. I even developed my own technique. The secret is in the wrist. Of course, buying a curved plucker helps, too. I learned that when I bought a new plucker after I lost my old one.

Tonight I achieved another milestone. I have successfully removed most (and not all) of the hair on my legs. I didn't wax my legs because they say it's very painful. I didn't pluck the hair because that would have been excruciating. I used a depilating cream which smells awful. I let the cream sit for a few minutes before wiping it off. After five minutes, the hair came off. I am surprised to find that my legs are actually white under all the dark hair.

It's funny that it's only now, at the age of 27 and 3/4, that I'm trying to figure out how to live life like a real girl. A few months ago, I didn't care much about the way I looked. That doesn't mean that I didn't take a bath or brush my teeth. I was just trying to live a simple life. For me, looking presentable was enough. I never made an effort to look pretty because it obviously takes a lot of work. And in my case, it takes tons of work to make me look pretty.

I realize that I'm new to this beauty-torture thing. Whenever I go to the women's section of a department store, I always get overwhelmed by all the gadgets and beauty products that they have. For most of my life, I thought that a woman only needed a comb, soap, shampoo and water to survive. But now, I'm learning new terms like "exfoliation" and noticing products like eye creams, loofahs, bath gels, etc.

It's not that I'm giving in to the dictates of gay fashionistas and beauty experts. I don't buy beauty magazines. I just get to read such stuff whenever I visit a salon, which isn't often. It's just that I'm trying to have some fun. I'm single and I just want to feel better about myself.

I admit that, maybe subconsciously, I'm getting a bit desperate. I'm almost 30 and still there's no prospective husband in sight. But I'm not motivated by that right now—at least not consciously. I just want to look good and feel good about myself. And probably subconsciously, I don't want people to say that I didn't try my best to snag a husband (supposing I die a spinster). I really am doing all of this to make myself feel better. Or possibly subconsciously, I don't want my future husband (supposing I do manage to trap one) to leave me because I have more hair on my legs than he does. But really, I'm doing this beauty-torture thing to make myself feel wonderful.

I'm currently experimenting with lip gloss. I haven't mustered enough courage to progress to lipstick. Maybe I will manage to do that when I'm 40. But right now, I'm trying to figure out the benefits of using lip gloss over lip balm. After my lip-gloss lessons, I'm thinking of trying mascara. I haven't tried it yet. But it promises to be exciting.

Genevieve Claire L. Hermoso, 27, is doing volunteer work as a physical therapist at the Camp Lapu Lapu Station Hospital in Cebu.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Monument to failure

"This injustice, until rectified, shall stand out as a monument to the failure of our criminal justice system and the culture of impunity that will make the Philippines deserve the label as the most murderous country for journalists."

—Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño, disputing the court order dismissing charges against Department of Agriculture finance officer Osmeña Montañer for the murder of hard-hitting columnist Marlene Esperat

Noli's show

"... MGB (Magandang Gabi Bayan) is (Vice President) Noli de Castro, and without him, it's a shadow of its former self. We decided to retire the title as well because it's so identified with him."

—ABS-CBN head of news and current affairs Maria Ressa, on the reason De Castro's long-running TV program was pulled off the air

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Jollibee's commendable move

JOLLIBEE RECENTLY INTRODUCED its new, specially designed dine-in ware (plates, utensils and tumblers) in some 80 outlets in the country. This is welcome news for us, environmentally conscious customers who are very much disturbed by the extensive use of disposable polystyrene (also known as "styro" or plastic foam) ware in the fast-food industry.

Unknown to many, polystyrene ware poses an alarming threat to our health and environment. Toxic chemicals used in making this material leach into the hot food that is placed directly in polystyrene containers. When we eat or drink from them, we also ingest the "indirect food additives" (the free toxins that have "migrated" from the packaging to the food). These chemicals threaten human health and reproductive system.

Polystyrene ware is made with petroleum, a non-sustainable, heavily polluting and disappearing commodity. Furthermore, the material is not biodegradable and it takes up too much precious space in landfills, persisting there indefinitely. Compared to plastic, polystyrene is doubly vicious as it is not recyclable and it crumbles into fragments that clog waterways and the digestive system of animals.

Many refuse to switch to more environment-friendly food containers because of the cost. However, if we factor in its harmful impact, polystyrene may not be as cheap as we think it is, given its costs on our health and our environment.

Jollibee has proven once again that it is a leader, not only in sales performance but also as a company exemplifying social responsibility even in its simplest decisions (such as the decision of what food containers to use). We hope that other companies will emulate its good example.

—SHERILYN SIY,
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Who's to blame for the mine spill in Rapu-Rapu?

"ALBAY GOV. [FERNANDO] GONZALES cautioned local officials against blaming the Lafayette mine spill for allegedly contaminating the waters along the coastal towns of Sorsogon." (PDI, 1/2/06)

For the information of the governor, there is no other mining facility, plant and smelter, or industrial factory located along the coastal towns of Sorsogon.

If the governor doesn't approve of local officials faulting the mining firm's spill for the contamination, then there are only the higher government officials like himself to blame for pandering to the whims of foreign firms like Lafayette and looking the other way when tragedy strikes.

"Contaminating the water" is water pollution in simplest terms. It's not only mercury that can pollute our waters. And Lafayette has confirmed that other elements, like cyanide, had "leaked into several bodies of water in Rapu-Rapu town of Albay."

Unfortunately, the "bodies of water" in Rapu-Rapu are not lakes or dams, fenced and contained inland. The bodies of water are the open sea that flows to the nearby province of Sorsogon. Last Dec. 28, we personally saw what the waters along the mining facility looked like—dark as death.

We are not only talking here of an immediate concern—fish scare and/or fish kill. We go beyond that—the devastation of marine biodiversity in the long haul.

And we're not talking here of Lafayette mining alone. There are supposedly some 878 other mining firms in the country. What havoc can they create if even half their number dump their toxic debris into our seas?

If the governor didn't know it, the Philippines has been identified as the epicenter of marine biodiversity. "The Philippine Islands ... has the richest concentration of marine life on the entire planet .... Teeming with life on its coral reefs, mangrove swamps, seagrass beds and soft-bottom habitats, the Philippine Islands are the marine counterpart to the Amazon rainforests in terms of concentrated biodiversity," Michelle Nery noted in "The Best of Philippine Biodiversity." (Issue 19, 4th Quarter 2004)

Just across Rapu-Rapu are the 500-hectare mangrove forests of Prieto-Diaz where 9 out of the 21 species of seagrasses endemic to the Philippines are abundantly present.

Foisting investment and employment opportunities or taxes and dues versus environmental conservation reeks of rapacious sycophancy. Has the Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau also taken over the functions of the Department of Labor, Philippine Overseas Employment Agency, Department of Finance or Bureau of Internal Revenue? Even Secretary Michael Defensor's taking pride in the Philippines' winning an international award as best mining site is short of groveling. What has the title done to the environment and people of Armenia, its 2003 holder, and Sierra Leone, its 2004 holder?

—DIOSCORO F AICARDO,
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Spoon-fed truth

I WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON Fr. Jerry Orbos' column titled "Honesty, humility and obedience" (PDI, 1/8/06) where he cited certain parallels between the story of the three Magi's and our present-day political situation.

While I respect Father Jerry's opinions and insights when it comes to spiritual matters, I would like to say that his "truth" cuts both ways. If one were to reverse the personalities he was alluding to, his thesis would still hold true.

I think irrefutable evidence of the so-called crimes of the President has yet to be presented to the "true majority" of this nation. While I voted for neither Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo nor Fernando Poe Jr., I have accepted the people's choice. The fact that the incumbent is still in Malacañang shows that the "real majority" continues to support her.

What I find disturbing is the contradictory position that some Church leaders have taken. In reported apparitions, for example, the Church would advise us to be circumspect and to search for evidence to support their veracity. However, on the mere words of a handful of politicians who can't wait for their turn, some Church leaders would like us to jump "blindly into the water." Is this because this version of the truth fits their own agenda?

I hope that Father Jerry counsels us on how to find the truth rather than spoon-feeding us with his own version of the truth.

—GODOFREDO T. BATAC,
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Wrong title for the Joker

I BEG TO DISAGREE WITH THE title the Inquirer gave to, probably, the only honorable member of the Senate, Sen. Joker Arroyo. In its Jan. 3 issue, the Inquirer reported that the honorable senator is the undisputed "Kuripot King," of Congress for the 14th time.

"*Kuripot*" is a negative adjective which applies to a person who is loath to wisely spending or giving away his own money but takes pleasure in the generosity of others.

Senator Arroyo is thrifty in a very positive sense. He does not take advantage of his position to spend the people's money, unlike most of his colleagues in government who do so with wild abandon. He should serve as a model government servant whom everyone in public service, military or civilian, should take lessons from. If only half—if not all—of those in government service were like him, this government and this nation would be prosperous. We do not have to suffer the EVAT burden. And we would not be lagging far behind our Asian neighbors in the global rush to progress.

Senator Arroyo should be praised for his economy. Branding him as "*kuripot*," might discourage others from emulating him. This country needs more Joker Arroyos.

—RAMON MAYUGA,
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No judgment on land ownership

THE NOV. 19, 2005 ISSUE OF THE Inquirer ran an article titled "Court junks claim suit vs Cuevasville Realty," saying that the Court of Appeals upheld the right of Cuevasville Realty and Development Corp. to develop and sell subdivision lots in its Cuevasville Subdivision in Bacoor, Cavite. The same item reported that "[T]he CA effectively scuttled efforts of A & F Development Corp. to gain possession of the prime property which A & F alleged it owned since 1968."

The article suggested that the Court of Appeals has adjudged Cuevasville the owner of the land in question.

Allow us to clarify. The Court of Appeals merely ruled on a procedural question, i.e., the meaning of "status quo" as applied to the case of A & F and Cuevasville. It did not deny A & F's motion to take control of the property.

For the benefit of Inquirer readers, allow us to present here the facts of the case:

1. On May 8, 2002, A & F filed with the regional trial court of Bacoor, Cavite a Complaint for the Annulment and Cancellation of Title and Damages against Cuevasville. A & F asserted that it is the absolute and registered owner of a parcel of land in Bacoor, Cavite, which was then being developed by Cuevasville.

2. On Sept. 24, 2002, the trial court ordered the parties to maintain the "status quo" while the case was pending. Cuevasville quickly proceeded with its construction and development plans on the land. A & F filed a motion to stop Cuevasville from continuing its activities on the land and sought to cite Cuevasville in contempt of court. A & F's position was that Cuevasville's activities on the land in question were violative of the "status quo" order.

3. The trial court denied A & F's motion. A & F appealed the trial court's denial in a petition for certiorari before the Court of Appeals. On Oct. 11, 2005, the Court of Appeals issued an order denying A & F's petition, stating that the trial court was correct in holding that there was no reason to stop Cuevasville from developing the property in question, as such was the status quo that preceded the instant controversy.

4. There has been no trial on the merits. The rulings of the trial court and the Court of Appeals only pertained to the provisional order for "status quo." The Court of Appeals' Oct. 11, 2005 ruling involved only the right of Cuevasville to continue developing the property while the case was pending. The Court of Appeals' ruling cannot in any way be interpreted as a judgment on the ownership of the land.

The issue of ownership has still to be determined by the trial court. It was therefore erroneous to state that the Court of Appeals "junked A & F's efforts to gain possession of the property."

The clients of Cuevasville must be informed of the legal status of the lots they are buying.

—AUGUSTO A. CAMARA,
president,
A & F Development Corp.,
c/o Rm. 3, G/ Floor,
Makati Medical Center,
Makati City

Why is this student in prison?

THET NAUNG SOE OF BURMA (Myanmar), a law student, was peacefully exercising his right to free speech and free assembly when he was arrested on Aug. 18, 2002 in his country. On Oct. 23, 2002, without being allowed to have lawyers to represent him, he was tried and sentenced to serve a prison term of 14 years.

Since being held in Insein Prison, Rangoon, Soe's health has deteriorated, and there is concern for his mental condition.

Amnesty International is working to call for a fair trial and his immediate unconditional release. It would help Soe, in particular, and the other political prisoners in Burma, in general, if you could give this case some publicity.

—D.S. HUTCHINSON,
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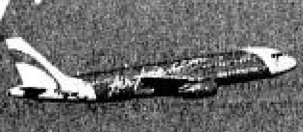

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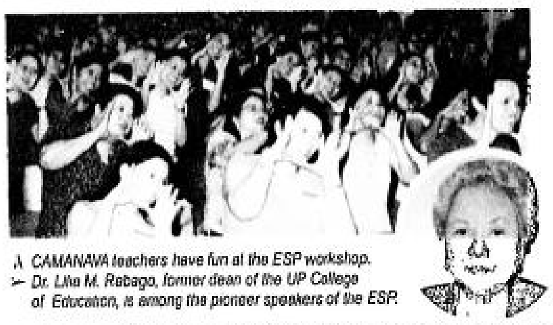
VIBAL ESP 25 years of Advancing Teaching Excellence

Dr. Lloyd Espiritu, ICT in Education resource speaker

Ms. Pilar Romero, CLE resource speaker

IT STARTED OUT TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO as Vibal Publishing's program to maintain and promote goodwill with its customers and explain to them the features of Vibal books and how to make use of these to achieve optimum teaching-learning experience.

Today, Vibal's Educational Service Program (ESP) has evolved to become a full-scale teacher training program with year-round seminars and workshops helping teachers and school administrators nationwide to meet the increasing challenges of their profession.



▲ CAMANAVA teachers have fun at the ESP workshop.
➢ Dr. Lilia M. Rabago, former dean of the UP College of Education, is among the pioneer speakers of the ESP.

Launched in 1980, ESP was the brainchild of Gaspar Vibal, who was then vice president for publishing. Currently, Nila V. Mata, executive vice president and general manager, is in charge of the program. Esther A. Vibal, publisher and president, is also a staunch advocate of the teacher training program.

ESP Living the Passion for Education Seminar **happens at St. Mary's Academy, Cagayan de Oro and Colegio de San Juan de Letran-Calamba, Laguna** TODAY!

Through the years, Vibal has expanded the program's reach and coverage in response to the clamor of educators around the country.

"Vibal prides itself with the development, production, and distribution of the best educational products. We want to take the same commitment to another level. Thus, we offer a new and improved ESP," said Ms. Mata.

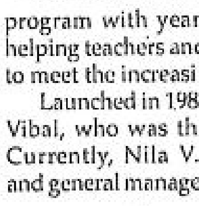
Last October, Vibal launched the *Living the Passion for Education Seminar Tour* which will run until February 2006. The tour visits over 20 key cities throughout the country.

According to Rio Brigino, Vibal events supervisor and organizer of ESP seminars, more than 15,000 participants benefited from Vibal's ESP seminars and workshops in the previous year alone.

For more information on Vibal ESP, call tel. 712-2722, 712-9156 to 59 loc. 205 or 225 or e-mail rio@vibalpublishing.com.

Malou B. Aguinaldo

VIBAL to launch Award-Winning DVD Package



VIBAL is set to launch its award-winning DVD entitled *The Regions of the Philippines* in time for SY 2006-2007.

The educational DVD collection was a finalist in the recently concluded United Nations-sponsored World Summit Award (WSA) held in Bahrain, competing against 1,000 other multimedia products from 168 countries after being named the best e-learning product in the Philippines for 2005.

The 10-volume DVD package is fully interactive and explores the 17 regions of the Philippines. It provides in-depth information on the geography, people, products and industries, attractions, as well as the history and culture of each region.

world summit award

Josie Caedac, WSA Phils chair, and Corazon Claudio, Ph.D., jury member (4th and 5th fr. right), presented Vibal's Multimedia Group, composed of (L-R) Daniel Desiderio, Julius Coroton, Alfred Ursua, Malou Aguinaldo, and Jose Lloyd Espiritu, Ph.D., EduTech consultant, with a plaque of recognition during the One-Internet Day celebration in Makati City last Dec. 16, 2005.

ADVT.

Workers need to survive

THE WAGE HIKE ISSUE shows Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's appalling tendency to go back on her word. It seemed too good to be true when she asked Congress to enact a minimum wage law to help workers cope with the new expanded value added tax (EVAT).

Finally, it looked like GMA was on the side of the masses. But four days later, she backtracked after local and foreign businessmen expressed their disapproval.

GMA should stop catering to the wishes of big business and start trying to appease Juan dela Cruz with concrete measures, not through "*pakitang tao*." The average family needs P600 for daily expenses. Compare this with the current minimum wage of P300.

It's glaringly obvious that she is not inclined to give the masses a chance to improve their lives. Very early on, she pressed for the approval of the expanded value-added tax. It is time to attend to the people most adversely affected by the hike on taxes.

Businessmen want to protect their profits, but workers need to survive.

—ROSHAN NANDWANI,
flablan@hotmail.com

PARANG BALIKTAD?
OO NGA!

Lafayette woos mining critics, but bishop sticks to position

SORSOGON CITY—THE HEAD OF THE NEW team that would run the mining operations in Rapu-Rapu, Albay of Lafayette Phils. Inc. (LPI) started a campaign to win the hearts and minds of his firm's critics, but apparently failed to make a dent in the position of the bishop of Sorsogon province.

Carlos Dominguez, new LPI head, met with the firm's supporters and critics in Albay and Sorsogon to find out first hand the concerns of communities that host its Rapu-Rapu project.

Dominguez told the people he met that he was there "to listen, not to argue; to find out what really happened regarding the two mine spills last year and what needs to be done."

He also asked those who seek to stop Lafayette's operations, especially some Church leaders, to wait for the final results of a chemical analysis that would identify the real cause of a fish scare in Sorsogon province.

But Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes, a staunch mining opponent, said he still doubts whether LPI's operation would be safe for the environment.

"We could never expect them to care for us, Lafayette's heart is not for Filipinos," said Bastes.

The bishop said he would "never have a change of heart" no matter what financial assistance Lafayette gives to the people.

One report of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, dated Nov. 11, 2005, showed that the waters of Bacon and Malubago in Sorsogon are "within the standard limits for mercury."

LPI has repeatedly said it does not use mercury in its operations.

"Stopping the operations of the Rapu-Rapu project simply because of still unfounded allegations regarding the fishkills would not solve other more equally pressing problems of the community like poverty and joblessness," said Dominguez in one of his dialogues.

"If it is pursued in a responsible manner, the Rapu-Rapu project can make a difference in the life of the communities and in shaping the future of the youth because we are all partners here. One's success is everybody's success. Inversely, stopping the operations of the project will be everybody's loss," he said.

But Bastes continued to be critical of LPI.

"We are not after the financial gains... but the effects on the environment mining would bring to us," said the bishop.

The new Lafayette chair assured Sorsogon officials that they were willing to pay damages that might be attributed to the mining operation.

But Bastes said no amount of compensation could ever bring back a damaged environment whose effects would last for generations.

The bishop said he now has documents to be presented to the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines when it convenes next week. *Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Scientists lament ₱29-B budget for rice imports

By Anselmo Roque
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—Rice scientists and program planners of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) here lamented the government's huge budget for rice importation but very minimal allocation for rice production.

They said the government, through the National Food Authority (NFA), has made available P29 billion for rice importation this year but only P1 billion for rice production.

"Looking at these figures makes one very sick," said a scientist who requested anonymity. "We have that much money for importation but just a pittance for rice production."

The scientists and program planners said if only more money is allocated for rice production, the country's goal of attaining rice self-sufficiency would be realized.

They said the goal is unattainable because of lack of focus particularly in giving the needed funds.

They said this assertion has been outlined in a new rice production approach which the Department of Agriculture is now implementing.

The scientists and planners said they were aware of the preparation for the production approach for 2006 and 2007 before it was approved.

They added that the budgets for this new approach were only P4 billion this year and P3 billion next year.

Central to the new approach in rice production is the implementation of a clustering scheme where seeds, inputs, technical know-how, irrigation, mechanization, post production, and market assistance would be provided.

A cluster, they explained, is a set of contiguous rice areas of around 100 hectares within a kilometer radius in the target towns and cities.

This approach will ensure the assignment of agricultural technicians from the local governments for each cluster, they said.

Outstanding farmers in these areas will also be asked to provide assistance to other farmers by giving information on how to improve their production.

Thirty-seven of 79 provinces are the focus of the cluster approach scheme. Together with other production areas not included in the cluster approach, rice production in the country could reach 15.88 million metric tons in 2006 and 16.67 million metric tons in 2007.

The scientists and planners said these target outputs are sufficient to supply the rice needs of the country in 2006 and 2007.

NILO SAPONG/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

CONDOLENCE
Brig. Gen. Gregory Schumacher, his right knee planted on the muddy ground, presents the US flag to Estelita Maravillosa, mother of US Sgt. Myla Maravillosa, who was killed in the line of duty in Iraq, during Myla's burial in U-og town in Bohol.

Tanauan mayor-in-waiting appeals for calm

CALAMBA CITY—A SCION OF AN influential business clan, who was declared by the Commission on Elections as the rightful winner in the last mayoral elections in Tanauan City, yesterday asked her opponent, incumbent Mayor Alfredo Corona, to "respect the rule of law" and restore order in their hometown.

Sonia Torres-Aquino, whose family owns Yazaki-Torres, one of the biggest semiconductor firms here, said despite the questions and controversies surrounding the temporary restraining order that the Comelec issued on Wednesday, she has decided to respect the ruling to prevent violence.

She said she was willing to let Corona stay as mayor until the order lapses after 20 days.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, Torres-Aquino asked for sobriety among her and Corona's followers in Tanauan City.

She, however, said the issuance of the order that stopped her from taking over as mayor "is a very disturbing development."

Corona said he will not leave his office until the Comelec resolves the motion for reconsideration that he filed and another motion questioning the appointment of Commissioner Rufino Javier at the Second Division. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Farmer leader shot dead

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A leader of a farmers' group in Pampanga was gunned down by four men outside his house in Mexico town on Tuesday night. Police identified the victim as Antonio Adriales, 59, a leader of the Aguman da reng Maglalautang Talapagobra keng Gabun (AMTG). The police, however, described Adriales as a "runner" of the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan (RHB). Jose Cunanan, chair of the AMTG, condemned the killing. "He was an unarmed civilian, and not even a runner of the RHB," Cunanan said in a statement. Lt. Col. Ricardo Visaya, commander of the Army's 69th Infantry Battalion in Mexico, said the military had nothing to do with Adriales' death.
Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Mayor seeks more bodyguards

BAGUIO CITY—A mayor in Abra has asked the Philippine National Police for more bodyguards following the murder of La Paz Mayor Marc Ysrael Bernos on Jan. 13. Director General Arturo Lomibao, PNP chief, said Lagayan Mayor Cecilia Luna has asked him to provide her additional security personnel after Bernos, 31, was shot and killed in La Paz. Lomibao, who opened a renovated police precinct here on Thursday, said the police are willing to provide additional security forces to mayors and other local government officials if they think they were necessary. Chief Supt. Leonardo Dionisio, Cordillera police director, said what he wanted was to stop more killings in Abra and to secure and protect local officials.
Desiree Caluza and Artha Kira Paredes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Environment pact sealed

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources signed a memorandum of agreement that would clarify the process in the issuance of environmental compliance certificates (ECCs) here. In a statement, the SBMA quoted Environment Secretary Michael Defensor as saying that the MOA would maintain the balance of the environment and help ease the flow of documents for investors in Subic. Under the agreement, the responsibility of issuing ECCs to individual businesses here would be given back to the SBMA Ecology Center, while the DENR would validate SBMA-issued ECCs and provide technical support. The MOA was signed by Defensor and SBMA Chair Feliciano Salonga and Administrator Armand Arreza.
PDI Central Luzon Desk

Escapees recaptured

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police have recaptured the last of the four noncommunist rebels who escaped from the Batangas provincial jail last weekend in an operation in Alaminos, Laguna. Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa, Calabarzon police director, identified the inmate as Angelito Manalo, 22, who is facing illegal drugs charges. Verzosa said Manalo was arrested by members of the Special Operations Group of the Batangas police at about 8:30 a.m. in his aunt's house in Barangay Uno. Manalo was among the four nonrebels who bolted jail while New People's Army rebels freed nine of their comrades.
Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Jail restrictions protested

UNFAIR NAMAN 'YAN!

LUCENA CITY—Militant human rights group Karapatan has protested the restrictions being imposed by jail officials and the military on detained suspected rebels. The restrictions came after the New People's Army sprang nine suspected rebels from the Batangas provincial jail. Doris Cuarlo, Karapatan-Southern Tagalog secretary general, said relatives and friends of detained political prisoners were now having a hard time in securing permission to personally visit the prisoners in different jails in the region. She said there are 27 political detainees in different jails in Southern Tagalog.

Ex-legislator distributes ₱5M in coupons in Calapan

CITY OF CALAPAN—BUSINESSMAN Mark Jimenez is on a spiritual journey that includes giving aid to various groups of people with different needs.

Calamity-stricken Oriental Mindoro became one of his beneficiaries when Jimenez's organization, called Nagkakaisa sa Diyos, Nagkakaisang Pilipino, went to the airport Monday and distributed P5 million worth of coupons to be converted to relief goods for about 20,000 people.

The P2 million of the P5 million came from the personal funds of Jimenez, said Carmencita Lao, spokesperson of the organization which advocates "spiritual and moral renewal and economic independence."

Lao said Jimenez quipped in a text message that "We are working to be of help and not stealing to be of help."

She said the Nagkakaisa sa Diyos, which Jimenez founded, is composed of professionals, housewives, new graduates and even the religious.

Lao said the businessman is currently in Malaybalay, Bukidnon continuing his spiritual sojourn with Benedictine monks there.

Fr. Columbano Adag, a Benedictine monk from Malaybalay, led the distribution of the coupons in Calapan on behalf of Nagkakaisa sa Diyos, Lao added. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Reds offer sanctuary for rebel Army execs

LUCENA CITY—THE COMMUNIST Party of the Philippines and its military wing, the New People's Army, are offering alliance and sanctuary for rebel military officers inside guerrilla territories.

Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said the CPP-NPA wants to sit down with the escaped officers and like-minded military and police officers to discuss possible points of unity, alliance, cooperation and even joint or cooperative military projects against the Arroyo administration.

The CPP also congratulated the four Army officials for successfully freeing themselves "from the oppressive prisons of the Arroyo regime."

Rosal lauded the officers' "decisive and courageous move" as a solid political statement against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"They have manifested steadfast commitment to principles, which can inspire other officers and men of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police, as well as others in the battle, to end the hated Arroyo government and change the system," Rosal said in a statement.

Army Capt. Nathaniel Rabonza and 1st Lieutenants Lawrence San Juan, Sonny Sarmiento and Patricio Bumidang escaped from Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City on Tuesday night.

The four were part of more than 300 junior officers and soldiers that seized the posh Oakwood Premiere apartment-hotel in Makati City on July 27, 2003, to denounce corruption in the military and the government. The mutiny was peacefully put down less than 24 hours later.

Rosal urged the disgruntled military officers to seek ties and close ranks with other forces fighting the Arroyo administration. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Visayas

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

'Blood Compact' controversy boils

By Chito A. Fuentes
Tagbilaran City

A CONTROVERSY over the site of the historic "Blood Compact" between Spanish conquistador Miguel Lopez de Legaspi and Boholano chieftain Sikatuna is brewing, barely two months before its 441st anniversary is commemorated mainly as a tourism event in Tagbilaran City.

Local officials are protesting a decision by the National Historical Institute (NHI) declaring that the event took place in a ship off the Hinawanan Bay in Loay town and not in Barangay Bool, Tagbilaran. Hinawanan is 17 km east of the city.

The finding was contained in a resolution approved by the NHI on July 1 but relayed to Loay Mayor Leonides Tiongco only on Nov. 16 last year.

Resolution No. 04, Series of 2005, adopted the recommendation of a panel resolving the site of the Blood Compact. It was signed by: NHI chair Ambeth Ocampo; members Fr. Jose Cruz, Heidi Gloria, Benito Legarda Jr. and Serafin Quiason; and ex-officio members Corazon Alvina and Prudenciana Cruz. It was attested by NHI executive director Ludovico Badoy.

But Tagbilaran is not giving up its claim without a fight.

"It's not over until it's over," Mayor Dan Lim said. "This is sad because it is like waking up one day and being stripped of the family name that you have carried with dignity all these years."

'Since time immemorial'

The mayor said the city did not simply make up this claim. He noted that even the NHI, in its resolution, conceded that Tagbilaran had always been known as the site of the Blood Compact "since time immemorial."

He pointed out that the Philippine Historical Committee (PHC), the forerunner of the NHI, installed the historical marker in Bool in 1941.

"If [the PHC] committed an error in 1941, how sure are we that the NHI is not committing an error this time?" Lim said.

The PHC installed the marker in Bool with the inscription titled "Blood Compact Between Sikatuna and Legaspi."

Native ritual

"About the middle of March 1565, the fleet of Captain General Miguel Lopez de Legaspi anchored along these shores. In the course of this visit, Legaspi entered into a blood compact with Datu Sikatuna for the purpose of insuring friendly relations between his people and the Filipinos," the inscription read.

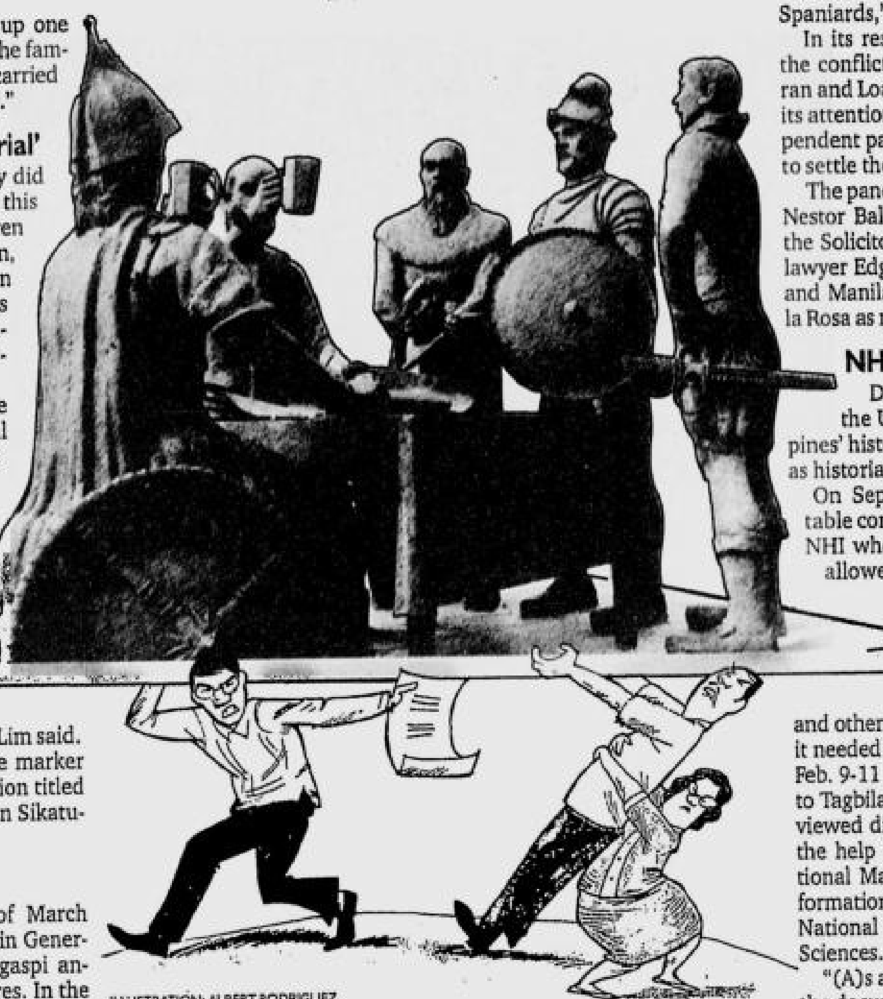


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

It added that the compact was performed as part of the native custom.

"Each of the two leaders made a small cut in his arm, drew a few drops of blood from the incision, mixed it with wine, and drank the goblet containing the blood of the other. Thus was the first bond of friendship between Filipinos and Spaniards," the inscription read.

In its resolution, the NHI said the conflicting claims of Tagbilaran and Loay had been brought to its attention. It convened an independent panel on Sept. 15, 2003, to settle the issue.

The panel was chaired by Judge Nestor Ballacillo of the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), with lawyer Edgardo Sison of the OSG and Manila Times editor Fred de la Rosa as members.

NHI hearings

Dr. Ricardo Jose, chair of the University of the Philippines' history department, served as historian-adviser.

On Sept. 17, 2003, a roundtable conference was held at the NHI where the claimants were allowed to present their supporting evidence.

After hearing both sides and appreciating all the documents and other evidence, the panel said it needed to inspect both sites. On Feb. 9-11 last year, the panel went to Tagbilaran and Loay, and interviewed divers and fisherfolk with the help of experts from the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority and the UP National Institute of Geological Sciences.

"(A)s a result of the analyses of the documents, on-site inspection in the places referred to in said documents and discussions held with the historian/adviser, experts, divers and fisherfolks in the areas, the panel concluded that the blood compact between Sikatuna and Legaspi took place in the flagship of San Pedro which was anchored off the Hinawanan Bay or off the waters of Loay, Bohol on March 25, 1565," the resolution said.

'It's the law'

But Mayor Lim, a lawyer, likened the controversy to a case in which the judge decides on the basis of available evidence.

"Nobody can really tell if no more evidence will be uncovered in the future in the same way that no one anticipated that new evidence supposedly overturned the initial findings that was the basis for the marker installed in 1941," he said.

Lim said he would secure the structures and markers in the existing site and would even beautify the place to attract visitors who want to judge the issue themselves.

Tagbilaran Councilor Danilo Bantugan, who participated in the NHI roundtable talks, said that unless the law declaring every March 15 "Blood Compact Day" in Bohol was amended, nobody could stop Tagbilaran from observing the celebration in Bool.

He noted that the law, sponsored by then Rep. Erico Aumentado (now the governor), declared that the Blood Compact took place in Bool on March 15, 1565.

"While the NHI may invoke its adjudicatory powers in resolving historical controversies, it is our considered opinion that such power cannot prevail over the legislature itself," Bantugan said.

LOLA MUNDA AT 103. Raymunda "Lola Munda" Chua Maxino, at 103, relaxes with a puff of a cigarette made of leaves of the fruit-bearing *lomboy* tree. ALEX PAL

A FULL LIFE

'Almost perfect' mother turns 103

By Alex Pal
Dumaguete City

MANY PEOPLE START FORGETTING THINGS AS they enter adulthood. But ask Raymunda Chua Maxino any question about her childhood, World War II, her family and grandchildren, and her present state of health, she remembers every detail.

At 103, Lola Munda's memory continues to serve her well.

"I'm usually tired; I have body pains all over, and I don't have a good appetite," she complains.

Since she recovered from a mild stroke last year, Lola Munda has been going about in a wheelchair.

Her condition usually improves with an occasional puff of a cigarette made of leaves from the fruit-bearing *lomboy* (black plum) tree, for which she makes sure she has an ample supply of, stacked neatly in a can beside her. Old habits, even for Lola Munda, die hard.

"It was this girl Veronica, the wife of my cousin, who introduced me to smoking when I was 12 years old; and I've been a smoker ever since," she recounts, smiling.

Lola Munda's youngest daughter, Dr. Hope Maxino-Bandal, 55, looked amused as she listened to her mother being interviewed five days before her 103rd birthday.

Hope was brought back to her younger days in their hometown in Ayungon, Negros Oriental. That was when Lola Munda was an active, doting mother who, together with her husband Hermenegildo, raised nine academically gifted children, and helped them every night with their homework.

"I helped my children with their lessons in arithmetic and other subjects," Lola Munda recalled.

This seemed extraordinary for someone who only finished Grade 2. Munda, the eldest in a brood of 11 children, was forced to stop schooling to help her father attend to their store and take care of her brothers and sisters.

"But I was a brilliant student, and I always got promoted in school. I left my classmates behind!" Lola Munda stressed.

Gifted children

Hermenegildo's and Munda's patience and perseverance in raising a huge family soon paid off, as all their nine children graduated either as valedictorians, salutatorians, or with first honors.

The eldest Dominador became a soldier during World War II. He died at the age of 19 in Capas, Tarlac after surviving the Death March.

Luciano, now 80, is a lawyer. He was dean of the Foundation University College of Law and Jurisprudence in Dumaguete City, and the university's president from 1984 to 1990. He was also manager of the Central Savings and Loan Association (CESLA, now the SG Bank).

Lorenzo, 76, became mayor of Dumaguete in the late '70s until the early '80s. He also managed the Dumaguete Rural Bank Inc., and taught at the Foundation.

Nicerata Santos, 73, retired as a provincial government employee.

Another lawyer, Vicente, 70, continues to teach Law at the Foundation. He retired as regional director of the Bureau of Immigration in Central Visayas. He headed the Negros Oriental Immigration office for several years.

Marcelino, 67, also a lawyer, was elected Dumaguete councilor in the '70s. He served as president of the Foundation from 1976 to 1984, then left the country to become lead appellate lawyer of the Court of Appeals of the 6th Judicial District of San Jose in California, from which he recently retired.

Gerardo, 64, obtained a doctorate in physics, and is a professor at the Silliman University, serving as chair of the physics department.

Hospicia Sy, 60, is a special education consultant with the Department of Education, and a professorial lecturer at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila.

Hope, 55, also holds a doctorate in physics, and teaches at the Silliman.

Lola Munda said she believes that her children learned a lot from their parents. "All my kids are doing fine—they don't quarrel. I always advised them never to quarrel."

After she converted their house in Ayungon into a chapel, Lola Munda decided to live with the Bandals in Barangay Bagacay in Dumaguete.

Equal treatment

Looking back at how she reared all her successful children, Lola Munda stressed that she never spoiled any child by playing favorites. "I treated all my children equally," she said. And that she made it a point to spend time with each of her children's families.

Even when her children were raising families of their own, Lola Munda made it a point to be with them when they needed her. "She would come to Manila where my family lived, whenever I gave birth," Hope recalled. Those were visits every family looked forward to.

"She's the perfect mother-in-law," chimed in Hope's husband, Executive Judge Rosendo Bandal Jr. of the Dumaguete Regional Trial Court. "We always went along fine; we never had any disagreements whatsoever."

"If she's not a perfect mother, she's the almost perfect mother," said Hospicia, whose memories of her mother are those of a very hard worker who never spanked them, but who taught by example.

"We learned to be compassionate from our mother's own example. Whenever beggars knocked on our door, she did not [just] give them money then let them go away; she let them into our home, and fed them."

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MUST LOVE DOGS
Shop owners in Binondo, Manila, report brisk sales in dog figurines in preparation for the coming Year of the Dog, marking the start of the Chinese New Year. ERIK ARAZAS

4 killed as school bus rams into Metro Rail post

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

DRIVING IN THOROUGHFARES WITH FEW vehicles on the road during the wee hours may be ideal for some, but it could also be dangerous.

Three men and a 15-year-old boy on a school bus were killed early yesterday morning after their vehicle rammed into a Metro Rail Transit post on the center island of the Edsa Crossing underpass in Mandaluyong City.

Their three companions remain in critical condition, traffic investigators said.

"The school bus could have been moving very fast because there were only a few vehicles on the road at that time," said Mandaluyong City Traffic Enforcement Unit Head Senior Insp. Ulpiando Romero Jr.

The bus is owned by a private company servicing De La Salle Greenhills, investigators added.

Some of the victims were employees and former workers at the private company. Their friends just tagged along, not knowing the ride would end in tragedy, police said.

Investigators said the victims had just come from Quezon City and were already on the southbound lane on Edsa about 3:20 a.m. yesterday.

But when they were passing by the underpass in Mandaluyong City, the school bus—an Isuzu Elf 250—suddenly hit the MRT post.

Because of the impact, the vehicle was a total wreck, investigators added.

Elser Lazaga, Alfie Torion, George Inobia Jr. and 15-year-old Joseph Ungko were already dead when they were brought to the Mandaluyong City Medical Center.

Rodel Bello, Ronald Cascon and Michael Ampuan sustained serious injuries and are undergoing treatment at the MCMC and the Polymedic Hospital, according to SPO3 Roberto Infante.

Investigators are still confirming reports that the victims had just come from a drinking spree before the accident, Romero said.

He also cautioned motorists on the road during wee hours to be extra careful.

The underpass, a traffic prone area, had gained notoriety as the scene of minor accidents during the rush hour, resulting in damages to vehicles.

"But this is the first time a major accident was reported in the area," Romero added.

Road mishaps in Mandaluyong

THERE WERE FEWER ROAD ACCIDENTS reported in Mandaluyong City last year than in 2004. Still, this is no reason for local police to be happy.

The city traffic enforcement unit recorded at least 2,233 road accidents last year, down from the 3,063 road accidents reported in 2004. Ten persons were killed in separate car accidents last year, up from the seven killed in 2004, the figures also said. And traffic officials are blaming drivers for most of the reported accidents.

"The drivers are the number one cause of traffic accidents," city traffic chief Senior Insp. Ulpiando Romero Jr. said. "Many drivers lack discipline and disregard traffic rules. Some also forget to check if their vehicles are properly maintained."

He said minor accidents are usually common during the rush hour, when many vehicles are out on the streets, trying to beat one another in making the first turn. There were 1,926 reported damage to property cases in the city last year, down from 2,924 cases in 2004. Major accidents, which result in serious injuries or even death, are common during the wee hours, he added.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Police nab alleged killer of Escudero heir

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE ALLEGED GUNMAN IN THE killing of the grandson of a prominent businessman and resort owner in Quezon province was arrested by operatives of the Manila Police District (MPD) Thursday.

Hilario Dizon, 51, of DR1B1 Happy St., Conpil Ville, San Pedro, Laguna, was brought to the police headquarters for questioning after he was suspected of shooting Manuel Zachary Escudero, 19, a grandson of Conrado "Ado" Escudero, owner of the popular Villa Escudero resort in Tiaong, Quezon. The young Escudero was earlier reported to be a distant relative of Sorsogon Rep. Francis "Chiz" Escudero. Dizon was one of two suspects being pursued by Task Force Manhunt led by Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling.

Escudero was reportedly in front of Mama-La Mini Mart at the corner of P. Ocampo and Arellano Streets in Malate when motorcycle-riding men snatched his Nokia 3100 phone early Thursday morning.

A cashier at the store told police that he saw the victim fall after the suspects shot him in the chest.

Escudero was declared dead on arrival at the St. Claire Medical Center.

The witness described the gunman as "wearing a red and blue helmet," and the second suspect as "about 40 years old, thin and gray-haired."

The MPD distributed photos of the suspects based on descriptions provided by eyewitnesses. After receiving information that Dizon lived in Barrio Texas, Paco, Manila, a police team rushed to the area and cornered the suspect in the neighboring Malate district.

Two witnesses later identified Dizon as the gunman in the killing of the Escudero heir.

METRO-BRIEFS

Pasay launches Invent-a-Toy contest

WoW!
SALI KO IMBENSYON KO!

AFTER GROOMING its young residents to become world-class animators, Pasay City is now hoping to coach its youth into inventing toys using indigenous or recycled materials. The city launched recently a search for young inventors in its public elementary schools. The Invent-A-Toy contest is divided into the junior category for 5-9-year-old public school students, and the senior category for those aged 10-12, according to the city's public information office. The toy must be original in design, useful, safe and easy to handle, and environment-friendly, said Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad. The winning entry will win P5,000. Deadline for submission of entries is Feb. 10. The contest is a brainchild of Kim Altarejos, executive director of the Foundation for the Development of Early and Special Education Inc.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Alert guards put out mall fire

VIGILANT guards at the Ayala Center in Makati City paid off at dawn yesterday when a blaze was quickly contained at the Glorietta mall early yesterday morning. Watchmen Joseph Aguilar, Chris Sirilan, and Rico Sumodovila helped put out the fire at the mall that started at around 1:30 a.m. from the kitchen of Bacolod Chicken Inasal, a restaurant at the ground floor of Glorietta 4.

Tarra V. Quismundo

IN TOWN
Mark Preston, Tony Butala and Donovan Tea, collectively known as the Lettermen, arrived in Manila yesterday. The trio will perform in a series of concerts at the Manila Hotel (Jan. 26) and the Araneta Coliseum (Jan. 27-28). ROGER MARGALLO

Palparan, up close and personal

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

I HAD THE CHANCE TO MEET THE CONtroversial Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan up close and personal. And I think that what they've been saying about him was either exaggerated or untrue. Palparan, now commander of the Army 7th Infantry Division, was the subject of complaints of human rights abuses from some people in Mindoro and Samar. He was once described as a "monster in uniform."

But that was not my impression of the general after I brought before him Roque Estacio and Eddie Luveriano who complained they were maltreated by the general's subordinates. The meeting with the controversial general took place at the Army Officers Clubhouse in Fort Bonifacio. Palparan had to make the long trip from Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija for the meeting.

Estacio and Luveriano are roving vendors who sell household items from shoe racks, plastic cabinets, to wall dividers. They go around the country selling their wares.

On Dec. 16, 2005, they happened to pass by an Army checkpoint in Barangay Aloo, Lupao, Nueva Ecija. The soldiers at the checkpoint arrested them on suspicion that they were spying for the New People's Army.

The soldiers, led by 2nd Lt. Carlo Dendiego, allegedly tortured them when they wouldn't admit they were NPA spies. Estacio said the torture was so severe he asked his tormentors to kill him and give his body to his family.

Dendiego, according to the two, was the most cruel. It was he who pistol-whipped them and inserted the muzzle of his pistol into their mouths. Of course, Dendiego denied everything. Palparan listened intently to the pair's story. From his facial expression, the general was very angry with the young lieutenant. But he kept his cool because he didn't want to embarrass a fellow officer in front of civilians.

Dendiego, a graduate of the Ateneo de Zamboanga, joined the Army in March last year. From what he said to deny the vendors' accusation, I could see that his school didn't mold him well enough.

Why would he torture his two accusers when he could have just killed them; "*Pareho lang naman na mabigat na kasalanan* (when both are serious crimes), Dendiego said.

Palparan advised the two vendors to file an administrative complaint against the lieutenant in the office of the Army provost marshal.

Before parting with the vendors, Palparan handed them money to cover their lost earnings from absences incurred while recovering from torture injuries. "It's not much, but the money is sincerely given," he said.

* * *

SOME militant groups are trying to prevent the NorthRail-SouthRail linkage project from pushing through by writing their counterparts in South Korea that the government had not made provisions for squatter relocation.

This is completely false, says Philippine National Railways (PNR) General Manager Jose Sarasola, pointing to a plan by the PNR to sell its property in Legazpi City. The land would be used to relocate squatters affected by the railway project.

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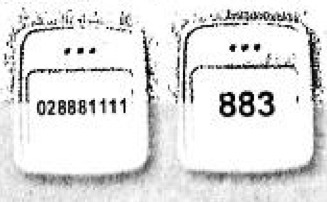

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Iconic fight commentator picks Manny over Morales

MERCHANT

LAS VEGAS—THE famous boxing commentator Larry Merchant yesterday said he has a hunch it could be Manny Pacquiao on Saturday.

Merchant, cautioning that it was only a gut feel, said he feels Pacquiao would come in a lot more prepared than last time.

"He admitted that he underestimated Morales last year," Merchant explained.

Merchant said Pacquiao could not go wrong learning from his mistakes. "But there are also those who are able to learn and improve on their victories," he said.

Whether or not Morales is one of these phenomenal fighters would be known on fight night Saturday. *Recah Trinidad*

Pacquiao 10-9 favorite as politicians come in

REUTERS

MANNY Pacquiao is ushered past an image of Erik Morales at the Wynn Las Vegas Wednesday.

By Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS—THE EARLY birds included Sen. Lito Lapid and Cavite Gov. Ayong Malicsi who were seen as early as Monday around the fabulous Wynn Las Vegas, host hotel of The Battle.

Yesterday, Rep. Prospero Nograles checked in, together with a governor from Mindanao and a staffer who said they planed in from Vancouver with the group of MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando and his wife, Mayor Marides Fernando of Marikina and several Metro Manila mayors.

The same staffer said Gov. Chavit Singson of Ilocos Sur, who was also here for Manny Pacquiao's first fight with Erik Morales at MGM Grand last year, has arrived for the big rematch between the two boxing stars on Saturday.

More politicians and other dignitaries from Manila are expected to arrive in full force in time for today's official weigh-in at the Margaux Ballroom at Wynn Las Vegas, a 2,700-room wonder that prides of an 18-hole gold course, the only one of its kind in this gambling mecca that drew a total of 40 million tourists last year.

What could not be fully determined was the amount of dollars wagered by Filipinos over the betting window at Wynn's sports book where Pacquiao was suddenly pegged a 10-9 underdog last night, after days of even odds.

Pacquiao was minus-115 at 9 p.m. yesterday, while Morales was minus-105.

A $115 bet on Pacquiao would pay $100, while $105 on morales will yield $100.

However, the odds could sway back in favor of Morales with the expected in-rush of Mexican money today.

Pacquiao was a heavy favorite when he lost to Morales via unanimous decision in their first encounter.

WBC champion Viloria to annotate The Battle; Jaca gets new foe again

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—WORLD BOXing Council junior flyweight champ Brian Viloria arrived here yesterday, ready to serve as commentator for this Sunday's Manny Pacquiao-Erik Morales rematch for Solar Sports.

Viloria, who was accompanied by his father Ben and manager Gary Gittelsohn when they arrived at the media center of the Wynn Hotel, will be annotating the fight at ringside with Filipino sportscaster Quinito Henson.

Viloria, who will defend his world crown against Mexican Jose Antonio Aguirre on Feb. 18 at the Aladdin Hotel and Casino, is a journalism student at the Northern Michigan University, and, according to his father, "enjoys doing the things that the media do."

For the broadcasting stint, Viloria will be taking time off from his training at the Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles. He'll resume training after the grudge fight.

Meanwhile, Filipino Jimrex "The Executioner" Jaca has been assigned a new foe once again in his eight-round debut fight in the United States underneath the Morales-Pacquiao bout.

The 22-year-old Jaca, the pride of Sibulan, Negros Oriental, will now take on Mexican lightweight Geronimo "Torito" Hernandez in the second fight of the card, which starts 4 p.m. on Saturday (Sunday in Manila).

Hernandez will replace John Nolasco for medical reasons. Nolasco had earlier been tabbed to replace Jaca's original foe Ivan Valle.

Jaca arrived in Las Vegas yesterday following days of training at the Wild Card Gym, just in time for today's weigh-in at 3:30 p.m.

"He's in tremendous shape," said Rex "Wakee" Salud, Jaca's manager. "I'm keeping my fingers crossed he'll get a win together with Manny."

Jaca (24-1-1, 11 KOs) will be assisted in his corner by Eric Brown, one of the trainers at Roach's Wild Card Gym, and US-based Filipino Gerry Balagbagan, a former boxer who serves as Pacquiao's running mate in training.

Hernandez holds a record of 12-15-1, 4 KOs.

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Jewels, Tortillos dispute slot

GAME TODAY *(San Andres Gym)*
3:30 p.m.—Granny Goose vs Montaña

MONTAÑA COACH ROBERT SISON expects another rough time when his Jewels dispute the last Final Four slot with the Granny Goose Tortillos today in the PBL Heroes Cup at the San Andres Gym.

"We expect a very physical game against Granny," said Sison. "We had a hard time on their defense."

Montaña forged the 3:30 p.m. duel after outclassing Granny Goose, 82-73, in their quarterfinal match last Thursday.

Harbour Centre and Granny Goose toted twice-to-beat advantages in the quarterfinal round. But the Portmasters quickly advanced to the semifinals after edging Hapee-PCU, 72-64.

Rain or Shine and Magnolia Ice Cream, holders of the best records in the elimination phase, claimed the first two semifinal seats.

It was the duo of Al Magpayo and Al Vegara who made sure that the Jewels live another game. The veteran pair teamed up for 11 points in the Jewels' decisive run in the final quarter.

Magpayo finished with a game-high 18 points, nine rebounds and three blocks, while Vergara shot 15 markers.

But Sison believes that Granny Goose mentor Joe Lipa will throw in some surprises. "I have high respect for coach Lipa," Sison said. "I know he was disappointed with their game, so I'm sure he will make some adjustments."

A seeding system will be applied in the semifinals. The No. 1 team will play the lower-seeded quarterfinalist, while the second placer will take on the higher-seeded quarterfinalist.

If Montaña wins, it would face front-running Rain or Shine, while second-ranked Magnolia Ice Cream would battle Harbour Centre.

Granny Goose would battle Magnolia if it wins, while Rain or Shine and Harbour Centre collide in the other pairing.

Jasmine W. Payo

30 legs, excellent backdrops for 30th Milo Marathon

THE MAJESTIC MT. APO IN KIDAPAWAN. THE sinking bell tower of St. William's Cathedral in Laoag. The Pasonanca Park in Zamboanga. The world-class beaches at the Subic Bay Freeport. The historic Provincial Capitol building of Leyte.

All these and more will serve as backdrop for this year's regional races of the 30th Milo Marathon.

Firing off in Kidapawan City on Jan. 29, the country's longest-running foot race travels to 29 destinations across the archipelago before the Dec. 10 grand finals in Manila.

From the usual 14 regional legs, Milo Sports Events executive Pat Goc-ong and marathon national organizer Rudy Biscocho decided to stretch the new season to 30 stops to celebrate the marathon's 30th year.

All the regional eliminations will be 21K races, except that in Metro Manila which will be disputed over the full length of 42K.

The rest of the regional races: Tagbilaran (Feb. 5), Batangas City (Feb. 12), Dumaguete (Feb. 19), Puerto Princesa (Feb. 26), Lucena (March 5), Roxas City (June 25), Gen. Santos City (July 2), Cavite City (July 9), Manila (July 16), Bacolod (July 23), Davao City (July 30), Naga City (Aug. 6), Subic Bay Freeport (Aug. 13), Laoag (Aug. 20), Cebu (Aug. 27), Butuan (Sept. 3), Iloilo (Sept. 10), Cagayan de Oro (Sept. 17), Tarlac City (Sept. 24), Legazpi City (Oct. 1), Zamboanga City (Oct. 8), Dagupan (Oct. 15), Tacloban (Oct. 22), Santiago City (Oct. 29), Iligan City (Nov. 5), Dipolog City (Nov. 12), Cabanatuan (Nov. 19) and San Fernando, La Union (Nov. 26).

Welcoat takes Shell franchise, joins PBA ranks

By June Navarro

WELCOAT'S PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL ASsociation dream has finally become a reality.

The league's board of governors has unanimously voted for the transfer of Shell's franchise to Welcoat, making the paint company the newest member of the PBA, a reliable source yesterday told the INQUIRER.

"It's already a done deal," the source said. "They (Welcoat officials) just have to satisfy the conditions set by the league to formalize their entry."

After getting the nod of the board, Welcoat will be required to shell out P7.5 million as equity to the league plus a transfer fee amounting to P6 million within 15 days starting today. The P6 million represents 10 percent of Shell's franchise fee.

Shell auctioned off its franchise for P60 million, but officials from the two teams could still haggle for a lower price.

"We're very excited," said Welcoat team owners Terry Que and Raymund Yu. "The long wait is finally over."

Beaten to the draw

Welcoat first knocked on the doors of Asia's play-for-pay league in 1999 but was beaten to the draw by Red Bull. The Photokina franchise had its maiden PBA appearance in 2000.

As the newest kid on the block, Welcoat will be allowed to elevate three of its players in the Philippine Basketball League, with the 6-foot-7 Jay-R Reyes and Junjun Cabatu already assured of slots.

Playing under the banner of Rain or Shine in the PBL, the Paintmasters also have Jojo Tangkay, Eugene Tan, Gilbert Malabanan and Ronjay Enrile on their roster.

Que said former Shell coach Leo Austria would call the shots while Rain or Shine head coach Caloy Garcia would be Austria's deputy.

Rookie draft picks

The Paintmasters, who will debut in the PBA in the 2006-07 season at the earliest, automatically secures the 10th and 11th picks in the rookie draft. The rest of the team's composition will most likely come from the free-agent market.

Since joining the PBL in 1996, Welcoat landed in the championship 10 times, capturing six titles.

The same source said the series of negotiations for Shell's franchise started in November last year and both parties agreed in principle last Dec. 18.

Shell took a leave of absence from the league in July 2005 but was given until February 15 to reactivate or sell its franchise. Failure to do so meant Shell would forfeit all its rights and obligations as a PBA member.

"We welcome the move of Shell to transfer its franchise to a respected organization like Welcoat," said PBA commissioner Noli Eala. "While the process has been started for a transfer, formal discussions are still ongoing."

PBL
Molten
WELCOAT
PAINTMASTERS
14

WELCOAT moves its act to the play-for-pay league. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Home-and-away league gets going

ATENEO AND LA SALLE BRING their act to a different venue today as the Home and Away Invitational League (HAIL) gets under way today at the EAC Gym in Manila.

The two rivals schools collide at 2 p.m. The heavy four-game bill also pits host EAC against UE and FEU versus San Beda at 11 a.m., and St. Benilde opposite Lyceum in the other 2 p.m. game.

The only league in the country with the home-and-away format opens at 10 a.m. with the parade of athletes.

Supported by Adidas, the official sports brand, and Sunbolt, the official sports drink, Hail also drew teams from University of Santo Tomas and Lyceum.

RenRen gets into the groove

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

THIS SUNDAY, I will most likely opt to watch the semifinal round of the PBA games on television at home, instead of going to the Araneta Coliseum.

Not that I'm saving on gas, or that I'm lazy to get dressed and dolled up for a public appearance.

I just don't want to miss the show on ABC-5 that comes immediately after the PBA games. It's called "Shall We Dance?" I was told that Air21's RenRen Ritualo was one of the celebrities that had participated in the pre-taped terpsichorean contest.

RenRen's sponsorship agent Sheryl Reyes, who masterminded the cager's participation, disclosed that he had won twice in the eliminations and was ready to compete in the next phase, but that he decided to pull out because the schedule interfered with his profession.

* * *

"Conflict *kasi sa* practice and games *yung* schedule, *kaya mahirap i-*pursue," said RenRen, who was pitted against Arneli Ignacio and another pair in the contest. "Syempre, basketball and priority *ko dahil hanap-buhay.*"

RenRen danced the mambo and the samba, which he admitted, he only learned from a dance instructor.

But the review was good. I was told that RenRen dances gracefully and very well. That's why I am eager to see this for myself.

The cager said he had to give up the contest so he could focus on his game.

"The whole team is working very hard, we're all persevering and we're all very focused. I guess we've all stepped up our game a notch higher this conference," said RenRen, who should make a good candidate for the national team of dancesport. Just like Coke's Johnny Abarrientos who was a dancer before he became a cager.

* * *

Just as he promised, I was the first scribe Shell's Bobby Kanapi called as soon as the pact between him and Welcoat's Raymond Yu and Terry Que for the sale of the company's PBA franchise was sealed.

Only, his call came a day or two late because the sale had already been publicized in the sports pages of some newspapers.

"Sorry about the leaks. If I may make a plug, I'd like to recommend our product Weatherkote, to seal those leaks," said Bobby K, who informed us that, after the conditions and concessions have been ironed out between Welcoat and the board, the official announcement introducing the new PBA team will be made.

This, after six years. Welcoat first applied for PBA membership in 2000.

This time though, it was the PBA that had pursued Welcoat. As early as mid-2005 and even before the negotiations with Shell, some members of the board had sought out Raymond and Terry to invite them to join the PBA, obviously in preparation for the impending disbandment of the TurboChargers.

* * *

BAP president Joey Lina said his major concern, at this point, is to fast track the formation of a new and revitalized BAP that would merit the approval of FIBA secretary general Patrick Baumann and beat the March 31 deadline he also set.

Once everything is settled, or perhaps even if it isn't, Joey plans to stage an invitational tournament where all the frustrated basketball participants in last year's SEA Games will compete.

This tourney is tentatively set in August, said Joey, the eternal optimist, who stays hopeful that the BAP and the POC will come to terms in the near future.

* * *

Harbour Centre owner Mikee Romero picked out LA Tenorio, Joseph Yeo and his 6-foot-6 Fil-Am Robbie Reyes as the key to the team's entry to the semifinal round of the PBL's ongoing Heroes' Cup.

"This is our first time to make it to the semis. These guys led the team to six straight wins to qualify for the semis. Robbie, the nephew of former PBA cager Eric Reyes, consistently logs in double-double figures. I foresee him as the next Eric Menk," said an ecstatic Mikee.

OMEGA CUP

Pucay pips Pacto in playoff

By Musong R. Castillo

MARS PUCAY NAILED A 15-FOOT PUTT FROM off the green for birdie on the eighth playoff hole yesterday to win the third Omega Cup over Robert Pactolerin at Wack Wack's tough East course.

The 35-year-old Pucay got into sudden death with the burly Pactolerin after the former RP Open winner hit his drive out of bounds on the 18th.

Both wound up with four-round 296 totals, just a stroke ahead of joint third placers Carito Villaroman and Anthony Balan.

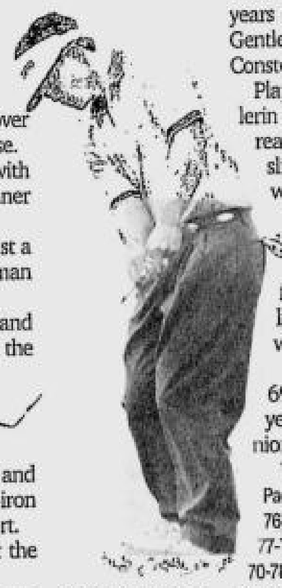
Pucay closed out with a two-over-par 74 and Pactolerin, pulled down by that double bogey in the final hole of regulation, settled for a 75.

"I knew it had a chance of going in," Pucay, a former bag-toter from Baguio City, said of his winning putt.

The playoff took the players to Nos. 10 and 9 and Pucay missed the ninth green after sailing a 5-iron second shot from 185 yards against the wind short.

Pactolerin landed his ball some 20 feet past the cup and had the first shot at birdie.

It was the first win for Pucay in more than three years after ruling the Davao leg of the defunct First Gentleman circuit. He won P100,000 cash plus a Constellation watch.



PUCAY: At last

Playing in the final flight with Villaroman, Pactolerin toted a two-stroke lead over Pucay, who was already in the clubhouse, when he hit his drive slightly to the right. The ball took a bad kick and went past the OB line.

"I thought I hit it safe," said Pactolerin.

Benjie Magada, who had the second-round lead with Balan, and Randy Garalde settled for joint fifth spot after a 74 and a 75, respectively, for 299 tallies, a shot in front of Ramil Bisera who ballooned to a 78 and was alone in sixth.

Richard Sinfuego blew into contention after a 69 Wednesday but could do no better than a 75 yesterday and wound up in a tie at 301 with senior pro Rey Alit, who matched par 72.

The top 10 scores: 296—Mars Pucay (73-72-77-74), Robart Pactolerin (69-79-73-75); 297—Carito Villaroman (77-70-74-76), Anthony Balan (73-72-77-75); 299—Benjie Magada (77-71-77-74), Randy Garalde (73-74-77-75); 300—Ramil Bisera (77-75-70-78); 301—Richard Sinfuego (83-69-74-75), Rey Alit (75-75-79-72); 302—Gerard Cantada (71-77-78-76).

Xavier gets back at St. Stephen

STANDINGS	W	L
Xavier	3	0
St. Jude	3	0
UNO	2	1
Chiang KS	1	1
H. Christian	1	2
St. Stephen	0	3
GCHS	0	3

XAVIER SCHOOL blasted defending champion St. Stephen, 91-45, a rematch of last year's finals the other day to share the lead with St. Jude in the 2006 Metro Manila Tiong Lian Basketball Association (MMTLBA)-Hitachi Cup basketball tournament at the UNO gym in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Xavier leaned on 5-foot-9 playmaker Charles Justin Tiu (15 points), John Woodward Co (12), Alejandro Torres (12), Marc Edward Tio (12) and Philmon Yao (10) in routing St. Stephen which won their best-of-three finals last year.

In the only other game, Hope Christian nipped Grace Christian, 63-57, for its first win in three matches.

John Patrick Uy and Arnold Basada combined for 41 points for Hope of Hapee Toothpaste team manager Bernard Yang.

Bryan Calantoc and Christian So paced Grace Christian with 19 and 18, respectively.

Major media mum on Manny

By Percy D. Della

COMMENTARY

HOME BOX OFFICE (HBO) IS EXPECTING brisk business from Manny Pacquiao's encore fight with Mexico's Erik Morales tomorrow.

Unfazed by lack of major media coverage in California—the most lucrative pro boxing market in the United States—the pay per view giant has made the fight available to over 50 million homes.

Why at $44.95 a pop, HBO is even offering the fight from the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas in high definition television (HDTV) for "unsurpassed" clarity and realism.

HBO is again literally banking on its rock-solid marketing reputation to make a windfall from the fight.

But there is something about Morales and Pacquiao that makes the Golden State's major print media mum about their bouts. Or is it just because of the newspapers' traditional disdain for television and its capacity to erode their reader base?

Anyway, the top five California newspapers are living up to tradition. After a near-blackout of news on the first Pacquiao-Morales fight last year, they again have demurred from treating the runup to tomorrow's super featherweight title match as a major news story.

Despite vast resources at their disposal, the Los Angeles Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, San Diego Union-Tribune, Orange County Register and the Sacramento Bee—the five biggest daily newspapers of the state—have treated the bout like a desert for news.

The only saving grace is La Opinion, the most circulated Spanish-language daily in California.

The bible of boxing for Latinos has written major stories on the card since it was announced.

Filipino newspapers around the state have thrown in their hefty share of publicity by reprinting stories, usually without permission, from Manila-based dailies.

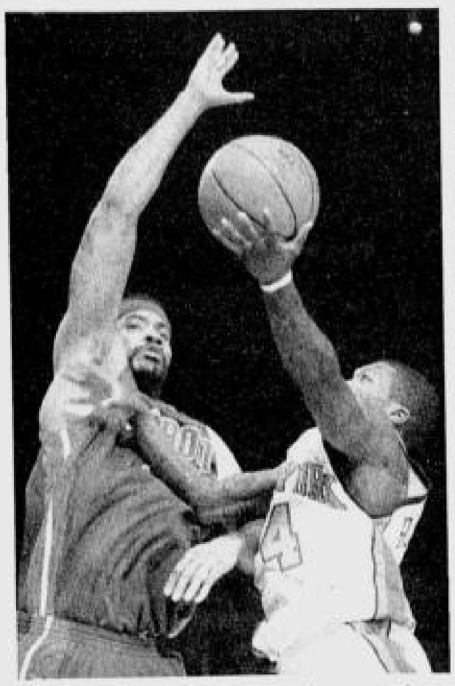
Like last year, the only substantive mainstream media exposure on the bout appeared in the Los Angeles Daily News—considered a poor cousin to the LA Times in terms of circulation and influence.

In its Jan. 11 edition, the Daily News reported that Manny Pacquiao will be able to use his preferred Reyes brand of gloves for his rematch with Morales. The Filipino fighter has complained that using the "Winning brand globes that are preferred by Morales took steam out of his punches."

According to the newspaper, each fighter will be able to use whatever gloves he prefers for tomorrow.

"I think psychologically, maybe wearing the (Reyes) gloves makes him feel that he is a stronger puncher than he really is," the Daily News quoted Morales as saying. "All I can tell you is that I fight with both kinds of gloves and I knock people out with both kinds of gloves."

Sports Note: Former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco delivered a virtual report to the nation on the Southeast Asian Games during the awards dinner of the Philippine Sportswriters Association last week. The boring 25-minute plus speech by the Philippine Olympic Committee head contributed to the drab atmosphere of the event. President Macapagal-Arroyo, hightailed it to the Manila Pavilion after the Lakas meeting at the Palace. The President's appearance, however limited, saved the night marked by the absence of most major awardees.



DETROIT'S Rasheed Wallace thwarts a shot by New York's Nate Robinson. REUTERS

Loud undergrads fan A-Rod's bid

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA—A BOISTEROUS group of students from a small Minnesota college has been making Andy Roddick feel right at home at the Australian Open.

Along with the Greek, Swedish and other national contingents that make annual sojourns to Melbourne Park, the patriotic undergrads from Gustavus Adolphus College have quickly earned a reputation for their fervent support that includes a variety of cheerleader-like chants during changeovers.

Roddick embraced their support during his 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 rout Friday of France's Julien Benneteau.

The fans had something of a running conversation with Roddick. After he broke Benneteau in the opening game of the third set, Roddick told them: "I got something for you real soon."

As promised, he whacked the ball up to them after finishing off the match with his 17th ace.

They drew the attention of TV commentator Jim Courier, who asked Roddick which he'd rather have backing him: this tanned group with a number of women who "seem like they spent more on tickets than clothes" or the loud backers of Greek Cypriot Marcos Baghdatis, Roddick's next opponent.

"I have a bunch of half-naked women," a smiling Roddick pointed out as Baghdatis fans could be heard cheering out in the concourse. "He has a bunch of men. I know who I'd rather have dinner with me." *AP*

RODDICK: Guess who he'd rather have over for dinner? AP

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Favorites continue to roll

Roddick breezes through hot day; Sharapova fries hapless foe

MARIA Sharapova reaches for a backhand return. The leggy Russian showed her versatility by using her left hand also against Jelena Kostanic. REUTERS

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA—ANDY Roddick didn't give his fans much time to work on their tans.

With his serve and baseline zingers in peak form, the second-seeded Roddick zipped past frustrated Julien Benneteau, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2, under a broiling sun Friday to advance to the fourth round of the Australian Open.

"On days like today where it is pretty hot, you just try to get through," Roddick said after smashing 17 aces, including three in the final game to finish in 1 hour, 22 minutes. "I'm just glad I'm hitting the ball well."

Now Roddick will have to face Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus—and his large contingent of rowdy supporters—without the backing of 75 students of a small Minnesota college. They have made the American feel at home, cheering his every move while sunning themselves in Rod Laver Arena but were spending their last day here Friday.

It was a day better suited to hitting the beach than hitting tennis balls. Bags of ice were the hot commodity, dangling around players' necks or draped across their thighs. Shade was a precious commodity.

The extreme heat policy was put in effect when the temperature exceeded 35 Celsius (96 Fahrenheit). New matches on outside courts were suspended under the so-called heat stress index guideline, which combines the ambient air temperature and court surface temperature. Five matches were postponed when a late storm came through.

Davenport struggled in the heat, hitting 42 unforced errors. She clinched it on her second match point as thick storm clouds loomed over from the southwest, cooling conditions off slightly.

"It was a lot hotter than I anticipated it was going to be," said top-ranked Lindsay Davenport, who spent 2:19 on court and had to finish her 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 victory over Maria Kirilenko before officials closed the stadium roof.

She slightly twisted her ankle but said she should be fine by Sunday, when she will face 2004 US Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova, seeded 14th and one of four Russians to advance Friday.

Eighth-seeded Gaston Gaudio of Argentina couldn't overcome the conditions and fell to unseeded Fabrice Santoro of France. The 33-year-old matched the best singles performance of his 55 Grand Slam appearances by reaching the fourth round with a 6-3, 6-2, 5-7, 1-6, 6-4 victory that took nearly four hours.

The forecast calls for conditions to heat up to about 41 C. (106 F) by the time Roddick takes the court Sunday. If so, the roof will be closed. Roddick would prefer it to be open.

"I don't mind the heat," he said. "I grew up in some hot places."

Fourth-seeded Maria Sharapova, meanwhile, routed Jelena Kostanic, 6-0, 6-1.

Sharapova, who lost to the eventual champion in all four majors in 2005, said she was no longer seriously bothered by a shoulder problem that sidelined her for two months coming into Melbourne.

Sharapova didn't bother going to her backhand for a return against Kostanic, deciding instead to quickly switch the racket into her left hand.

"I'm naturally a lefty," Sharapova said. "I do a lot of things lefty. I write with my right hand but I throw and kick with my left foot and left hand."

The 18-year-old Sharapova said that when she was younger "I played a little bit more lefty. At one point I didn't know if I was going to play lefty or righty or both hands." AP

Pistons rip depleted NY Knicks; Kings score

NEW YORK—RICHARD HAMILTON SCORED 26 points and Rasheed Wallace added 23 to lead the Detroit Pistons to a 105-79 win over a weakened New York Knicks at the Madison Square Garden on Thursday.

Without injured leading scorer Stephon Marbury and suspended Antonio Davis, the Knicks could offer only mild resistance against the Pistons, who stormed to their sixth straight victory.

Tayshaun Prince contributed 18 points while Carlos Delfino added 11 and Chauncey Billups dished out 13 assists as the Pistons improved their record to an NBA-best 32-5.

The Knicks had to do without Marbury for a second consecutive game due to an injured shoulder and learned just before tip-off they would be without Davis for the next five games.

Davis was suspended for charging into the stands to confront a fan who he thought was harassing his wife during Wednesday night's game against the Chicago Bulls.

In Sacramento, Mike Bibby bagged 40 points and Kenny Thomas had his first career triple-double to offset a 51-point performance from Kobe Bryant as the Kings battled to a 118-109 overtime victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

Thomas had 16 points, including six in overtime, 12 rebounds and 10 assists while Brad Miller also contributed 16 points to the win. *Reuters*

NBA on TV: San Antonio vs Miami (9 a.m., live, replay at 9:30 p.m. on **ESPN**) and Cleveland vs Golden State (11:30 a.m., replay at 9 p.m on **Solar Sports**).

Pagunsan leads Filipinos' charge

KARACHI—JUVIC PAGUNSAN PLAYED true to his potential yesterday, firing a four-under-par 68 and barging into money play in his initial stint as a pro in the Pakistan Open Golf Championship at the Karachi Golf Club here.

Counting his opening 73, Pagusan paced the Filipinos who made the cut with a 141 total, eight shots off pacesetters Mark Mouland and Chris Rodgers. Cassius Casas matched Pagunsan's 68 to join compatriots Frankie Miñoza (73) and Tony Lascuna (71) in today's third round.

63 entries advance to World Slasher finals

SIXTY-THREE ENTRIES OUT OF the original 104 scored at least two points each yesterday and advanced to the gruelling 4-cock finals of the World Slasher Cup today at the Araneta Coliseum. The fights start at noon. Heading the qualifiers are the entries of California's Joe Stanfield and Guam's Seldfrey Linsangan, homegrown aces Dicky Lim, Cito Alberto, Nene Abello and Phillip Chiongbian. All six entries scored perfect 4-0 records and will set out as heavy favorites in today's finals of the 3-day tourney. Fifty seven other entries scored two points or better and are still in contention.

Coseteng scores huge sweep; veterans rule touring car tilt

JODY Coseteng is flanked by runner-up Kookie Ramirez and third placer Mike Potenciano during the awarding rites of the Philippine National Touring Car Championship 2005 last weekend in Batangas.

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—SAN Miguel Beer-Erg Alcotonic's Jody Coseteng pulled off a big sweep as the veterans of racing showed the way in rounds seven and eight of the Philippine National Touring Car Championship 2005 yesterday.

With the absence of arch rival Enzo Pastor (TEC-Eneos), Coseteng, Mike Potenciano (Red Horse-MP Turbo) and the Ramirez brothers—Kookie and Louie—of Petron Ultron-SRA dominated the event sanctioned by the governing Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP).

Coseteng bucked a tough encounter with Kookie Ramirez to rule the 12-lap round 7 with a time of 31:37.017.

Kookie Ramirez, who posted the fastest lap time of 1:52.127 on the second lap, stuck behind Coseteng almost throughout and checked in 7.389 seconds later for second place.

Potenciano, showing no rust despite years of absence in touring car races, bagged third place while Louie Ramirez, Dominic Bon and Dennis Uy of Velocity Motors-Race Fans Racing Team wound up fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively.

The second race was equally intense as Coseteng and Kookie Ramirez came neck and neck in the early stages of the race. But with just two laps to go, Ramirez had a spinout and Coseteng coasted to victory, clocking 32:00.016 seconds for his first sweep of the season.

Potenciano took over from where Kookie left off and checked in eight seconds behind Coseteng to claim the runner-up finish while Louie Ramirez took third place.

Kookie Ramirez, who was also slapped with a 15-second penalty for a jump start, fell to fourth place.

Highlights of the past races will be shown on Slipstream TV over Sports Plus Channel 35 starting its second season on Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m. Slipstream TV is hosted by Dominic Uy and Carlo Tirona.

The event is sponsored by Bendix Brakes, Rota Wheels, Johnny Walker, Smirnoff Ice, A-toy body kits, Gadgets and CI Magazines, Home Radio 97.9, dwIZ 88.2, KTC Tools and autoindustriya.com.

Perez seeks Clark rallysprint sweep

ACTION heats up in the 2005 National Rallysprint Series tomorrow with Alex Perez aiming for back-to-back victories in the fourth leg at the parking area of the Best Buy Duty Free Shop in Clark Field, Pampanga. Expected to crowd Perez for top honors in the two races are Ken Diaz, Jun Diaz and 2004 national rally champion Ivan Isada. Ken Diaz is just a point behind Perez in the overall standings, while Isada is in third place, 17 points behind. Jun Diaz is another point farther adrift in fourth. In the previous leg last October at the Bay Boulevard, Perez scorched the track in his Honda Civic Hatchback with a time of 1:12.55. The series is sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines in partnership with Clark Development Corp. and organized by Roadwise Motoring Foundation.

Charity darts

DARTS SUPPORTER FRIDA MORELOS will hold a classified doubles darts tournament today dubbed "Pinoy Darts 2006 at Amber" at 8 p.m. at the Amber Restaurant in Makati. Proceeds of the raffle will go to a darter, Jojo de Luna, whose two sons need medical help. Sponsoring the tournament are Toby's Sports, BBA Trading, Tito Soncuya, Robson Sportscraft, Pier One, Terton Craft, Tropang Abu Dhabi and Darts Council of the Philippines.

6-cock derby set

Upcoming cockers and breeders of Metro Manila and the provinces are seeing action for the first time in Roligon Mega Cockpit's 16th Anniversary 6-cock derby which will blast off on Jan . 31, Feb. 2, 4, 7 and 9. Guaranteed prize is P4 million with a brand-new Toyota Innova also to be given out. Among the Roligon originals are Sweater man Sonny Lagon, 2005 World Slasher Cup champion Boy Marzo and Dong Lacson. Reservation of cockhouses is still ongoing and interested parties may call 8512275, 8331638 and 8529812.

Aguilar heads RP moto team in Guam racing

THE NAMSSA-PHILIPPINE MOTOCROSS TEAM RENEWS its quest for the Asian crown when it competes in the opening round of the 2006 FIM Asia Pacific Supercross Championships tomorrow at the Calvo Memorial Raceway Park in Jigo, Guam. The kickoff leg brings together the top riders from at least 12 nations in the region. Reigning national champion Glenn Aguilar will spearhead the RP campaign anew as he tries to reclaim the Asia Pacific Supercross title he won in 2003. Aguilar will be up against defending champion James Robinson of New Zealand, top Australian rider Jye Harvey, Tiger Sugiyama of Japan and Thailand champ Turbo Theplib. Joining Aguilar in Guam are Kenneth San Andres and 9-year-old Rafael Enriquez. The team's Guam sortie is supported by the PSC, POC, the Department of Tourism, motorcyclephilippines.com and Inside Racing Magazine.

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Jason Mraz lets his guard down

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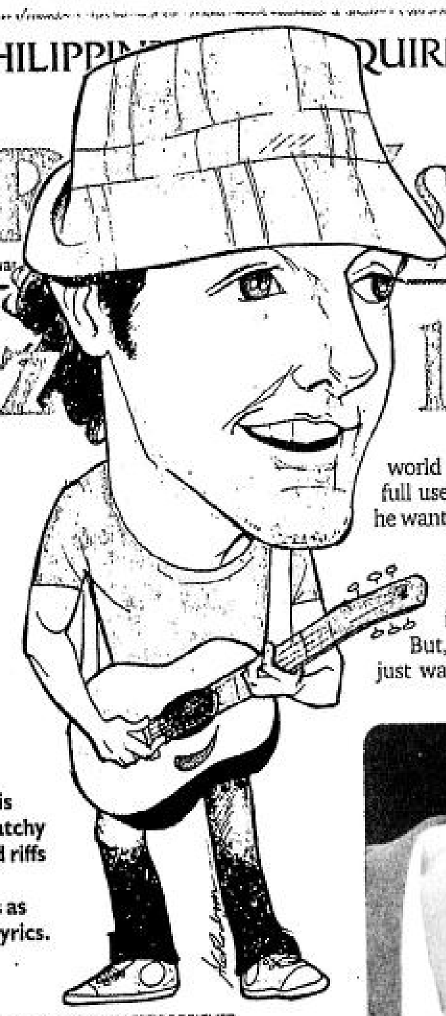

MRAZ. His music's catchy hooks and riffs are as infectious as his witty lyrics.

CARICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

THIS WEEK, WE HAVE a treat for Jason Mraz's fans. We interviewed the 28-year-old singer-musician—who shot to pop music stardom with the radio-friendly hits, "Sleep All Day" and "The Remedy"—who is in town for a show at the NBC Tent tonight.

We have to admit: Other than the ubiquitous "Sleep All Day," we're not really that familiar with the music of Mraz—until *after* we were asked if we wanted to interview the self-proclaimed "geek in the pink."

But, after listening to "Mr. A-Z," the follow-up to his successful 2002 debut album, "Waiting for My Rocket to Come," we immediately understood why he has such rabid, loyal followers: His music's catchy hooks and riffs are as infectious as his witty lyrics—not to mention Jason's waifish, boyish appeal.

Forthright

During the interview, the singer was initially guarded, but he was nevertheless forthright and eloquent—he didn't dodge the "sensitive" questions we had for him.

The soft-spoken wordsmith intimated to us that he found his creative side only "when my parents were busy divorcing and remarrying." When he decided to pursue a career in singing, he thought venturing into the world of musical theater would allow him full use of his pipes. It did—but, he realized he wanted more!

"I've always wanted to sing. I found myself in musical theater in school, because I knew there was going to be a lot of singing involved. But, when I was 18, I was so rebellious I just wanted to sing my own songs. I didn't want to be told what to do. I felt that the theater just wasn't the right choice for me."

What did he mean when he said that he was ready to reveal more about himself in "Mr. A-Z"?

He admitted, "There was some apprehension in the first album, because I didn't know anything about the process—or if the record

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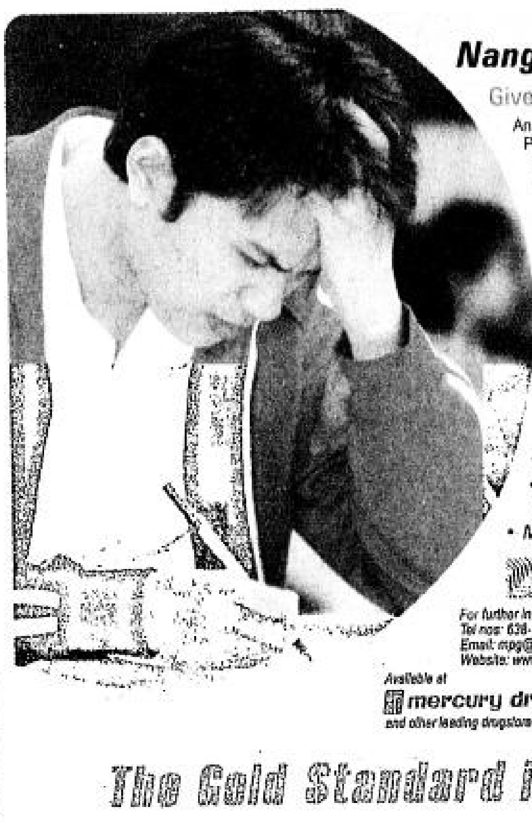
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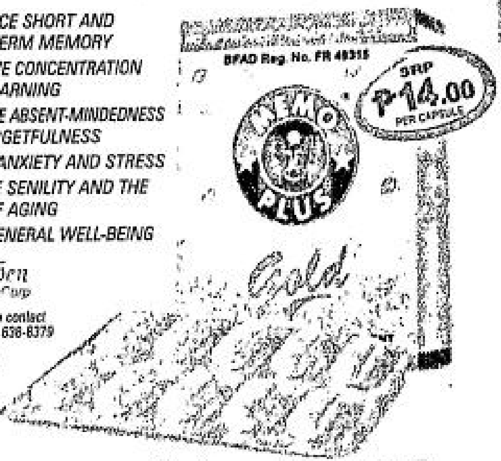

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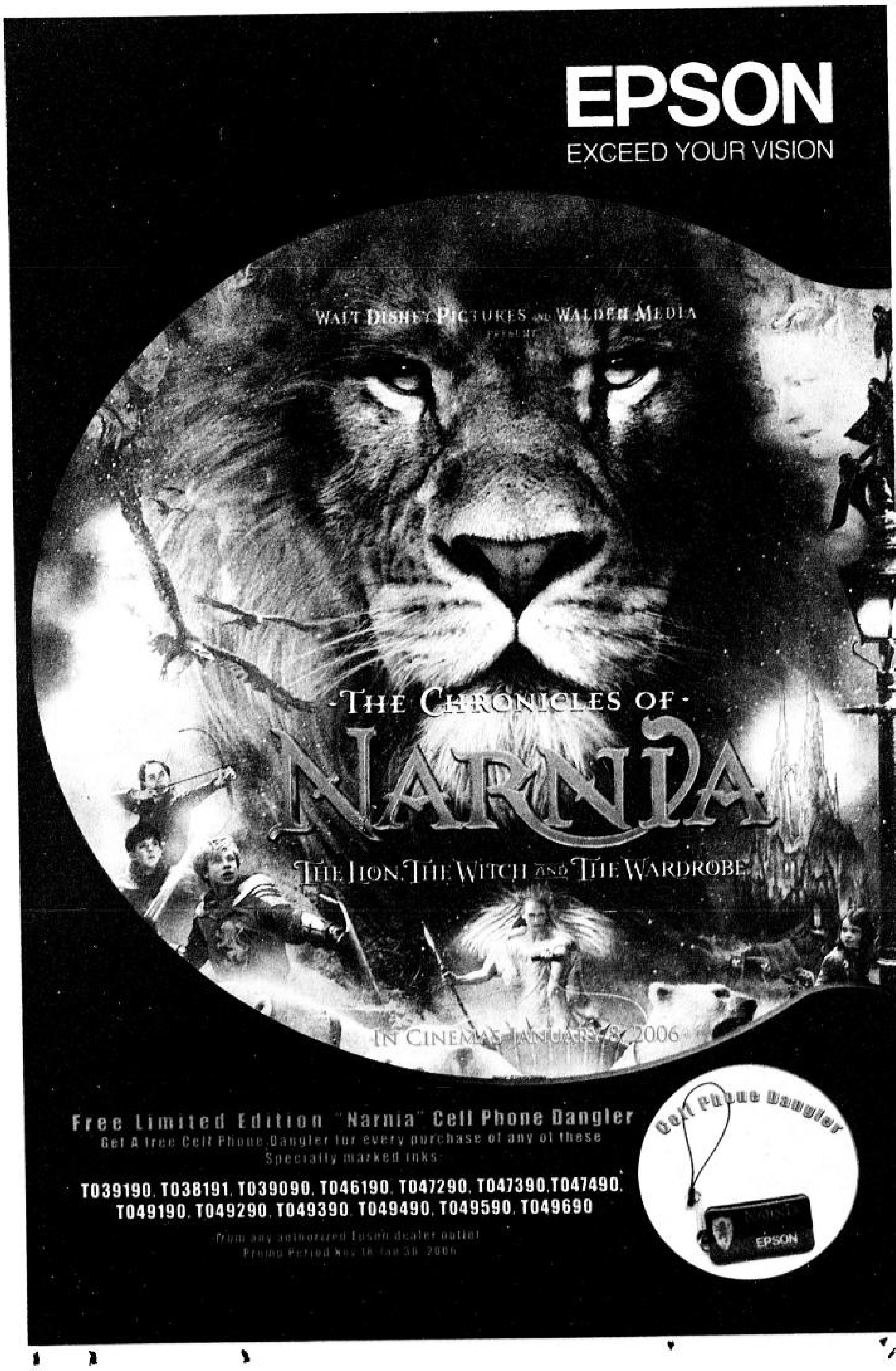
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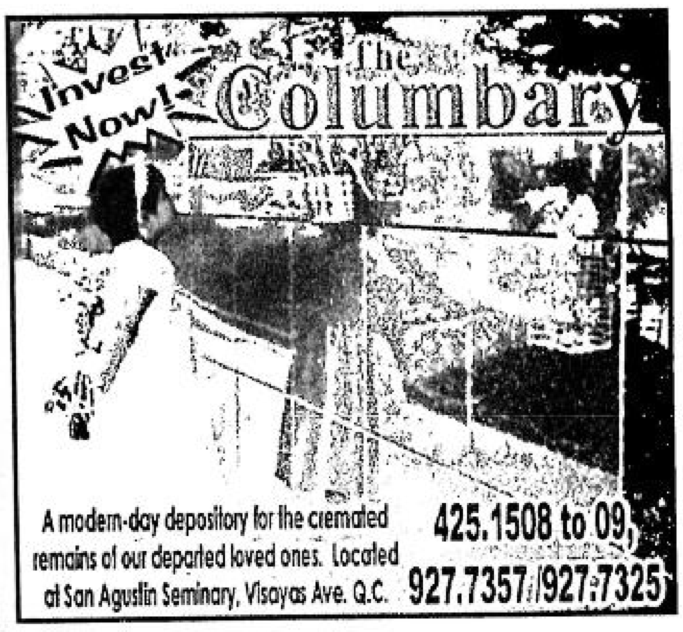

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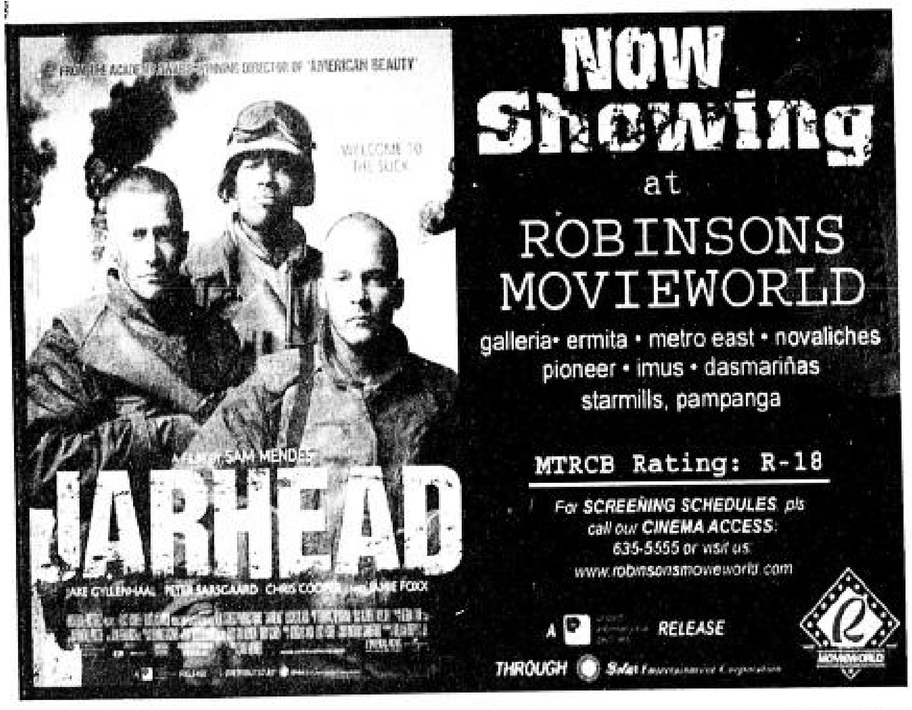
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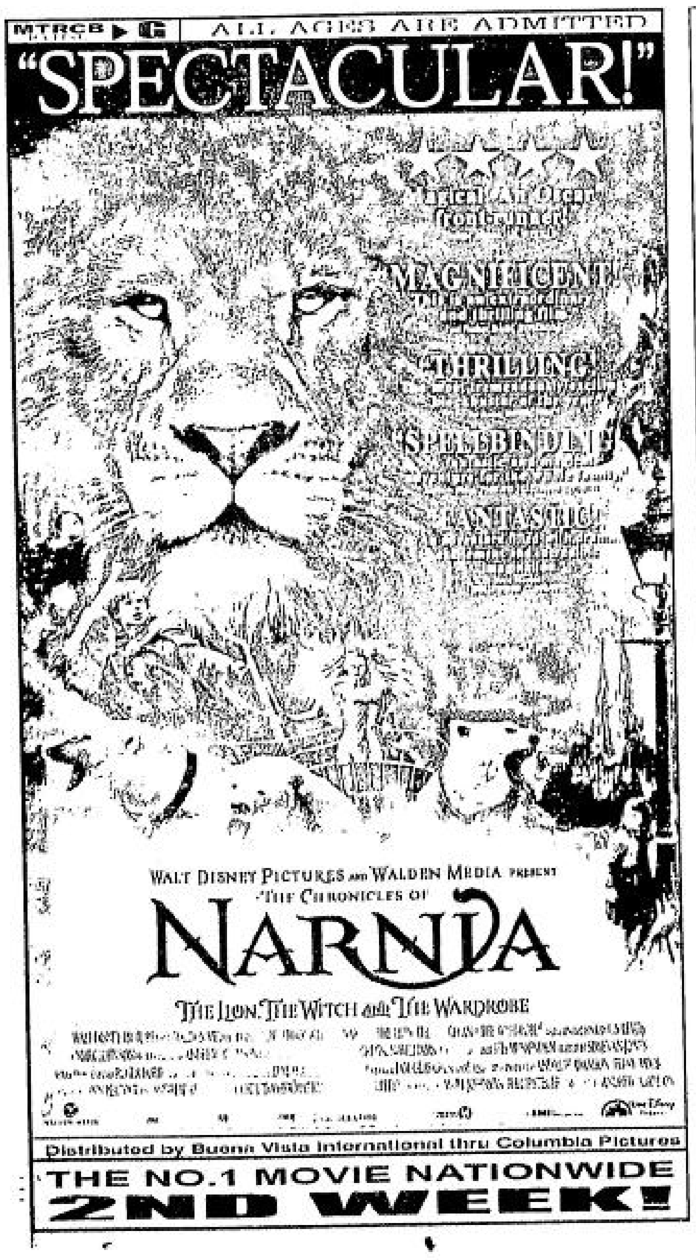
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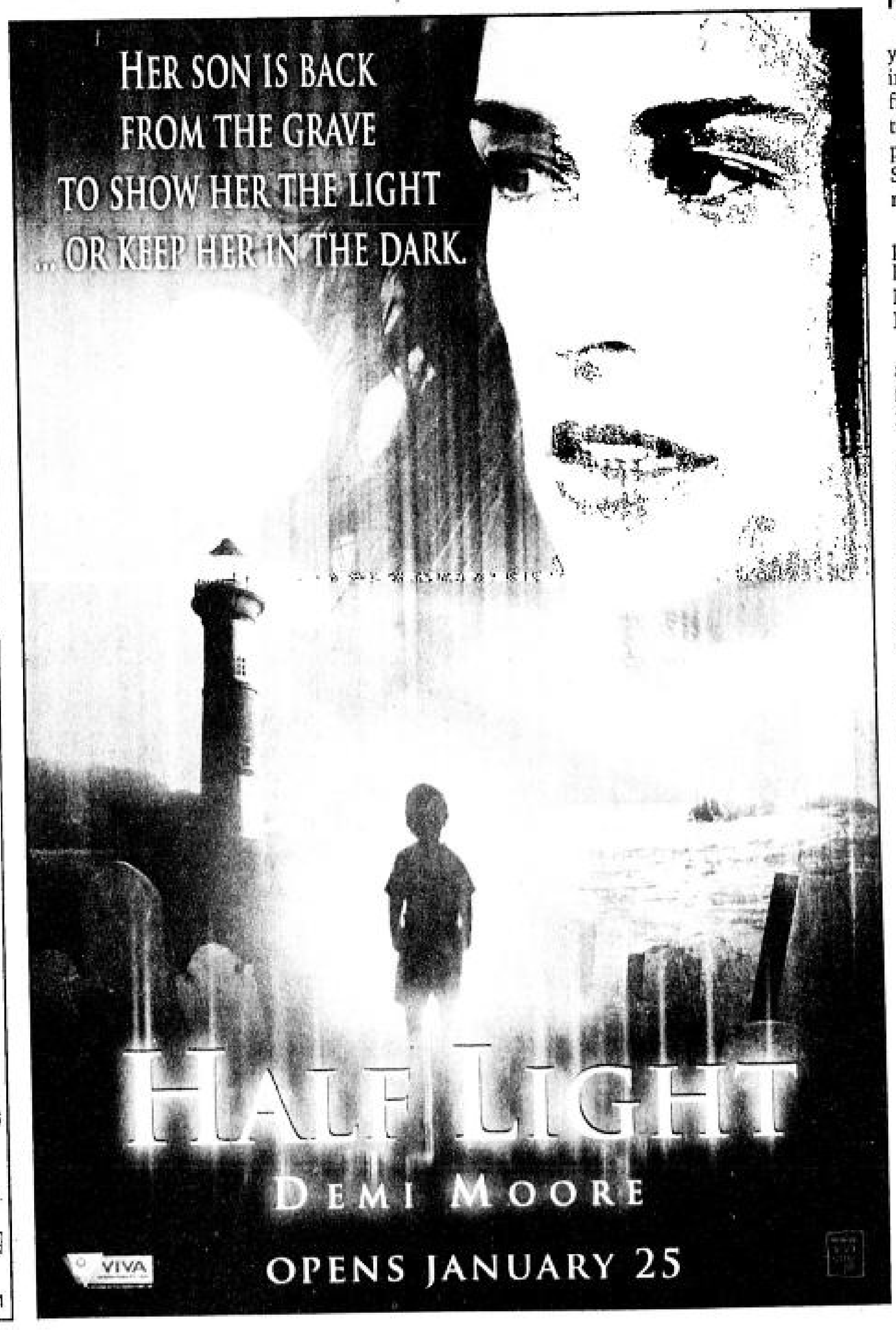
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UNDERWORLD 2
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R-13

CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
GP

RUMOR HAS IT
1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13

JARHEAD
12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00
R-18

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LITTLE MANHATTAN GP 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00	RUMOR HAS IT PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45, 7:55,10:05	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GP 1:05,4:05,7:05,10:05
JARHEAD R18 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15	FAMILY STONE PG13 12:20,2:40,5:00, 7:20,9:40	UNDERWORLD 2: EVOLUTION R13 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:20

REDLER. Filipinos are excellent craftsmen.

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STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

DR. MANOLET B. Santos is the chair of Emilio Aguinaldo College's College of Dentistry (Department of Prosthodontics).

He notes the growing demand for dental technicians in Canada, Europe, the Middle East, Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

Partnership

In November last year, EAC offered an internationally certified two-year dental technician course in partnership with Skytech Laboratories.

Skytech's CEO and president, Wilma Redler, believes that Filipinos are excellent craftsmen.

The school is now accepting students for school year 2006-2007.

IDTI is at EAC's College of Dentistry bldg., 1113-1117 San Marcelino st., Ermita, Manila. Call 521-2710 loc. 5341/5332, or email dentech_idit@eac.edu.ph.

Email mandynavasero@yahoo.com.ph, or call 899-1767

Developing. . .

From page A2-3

can similarly be performed for years. Aside from enabling them to make huge profits, this would make it possible for many more people to enjoy the exciting shows.

Go for it, producers—but, do it creatively, methodically, passionately, as all potential hits require!

Developing homegrown musical theater

By Nestor U. Torre

THE GOOD NEWS IS that "Phantom of the Opera" has become the longest-running musical on Broadway, with its 7,486th performance two Mondays ago, edging out the erstwhile record-holder, "Cats."

The bad news is that, to our knowledge, no Filipino stage musical has hit even 200 performances—a far cry from the popularity and longevity of US shows!

When will we come up with a Filipino hit musical that will go on, and on—and on?

Facts

What are the factors that have kept that from happening?

First, the competition provided by foreign musicals staged here. No thanks to our "deathless" colonial mentality, some Filipinos feel that imported shows are intrinsically better or more classy than local productions, so some homegrown musicals have a tough time drawing enthusiastic and supportive audiences.

Second, the stage musical is an American "invention," so quite a number of local musicals have a hard time capturing its verve and dynamism. They tend to be slower and less intense, and thus come off more like modern-day *zarzuelas* than outright musicals.

Third, some local producers don't have a long-range perspective, and plan their shows to run for only 10, 20 or, at most, 50 times. This is a poor use of resources, because a hit show *should* be performed as long as people clamor for it.

Performers are similarly short-sighted. They keep hopping from one production to another, so if one show goes into repeat run after repeat run, they are no longer available, and have to be replaced by other talents. When the replacements are inferior, the production suffers—and its long run is compromised and shortened.

"PHANTOM OF THE OPERA." Longest-running show on Broadway.

Too expensive

Fourth, theater rentals here are often too expensive to make long runs possible. To afford such pricey rentals, producers have to raise their ticket prices, cutting their productions off from the B-C-D mass audience that is needed to support *really* long runs.

Fifth, musicals are very difficult to create and perform. Quite a number of theater artists aren't aware of this difficulty, so they come up with weak and defective works that soon fade away.

Penchant

All of this is truly unfortunate, because Filipinos love musicals, Given their penchant for musical entertainment, stage and film musicals *should* be very popular here.

Long running musicals could also make a lot of money and provide creative employment for many theater talents.

For instance, "Phantom" has been seen by more than 10 million people and grossed some $600 million in New York City alone. Total international receipts? $3.2 billion!

Some savvy producers here should whip up homegrown musicals than

DEVELOPING/ A2-2

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2 CHRONICLES OF NARNIA MTRCB GP 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
3 RUMOR HAS IT MTRCB PG-13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
4 LITTLE MANHATTAN MTRCB GP 12:40, 2:45, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00
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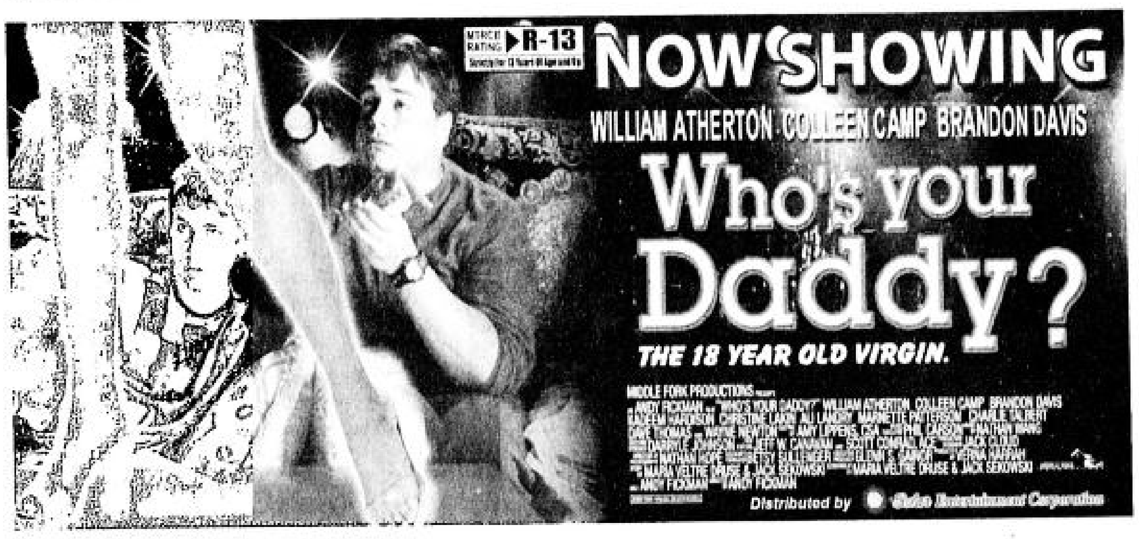

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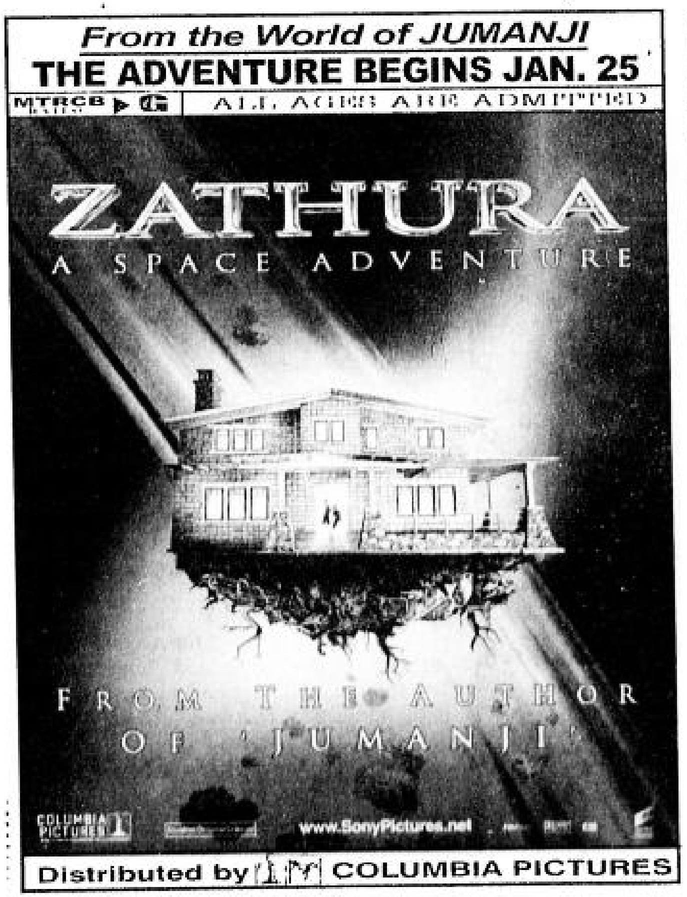

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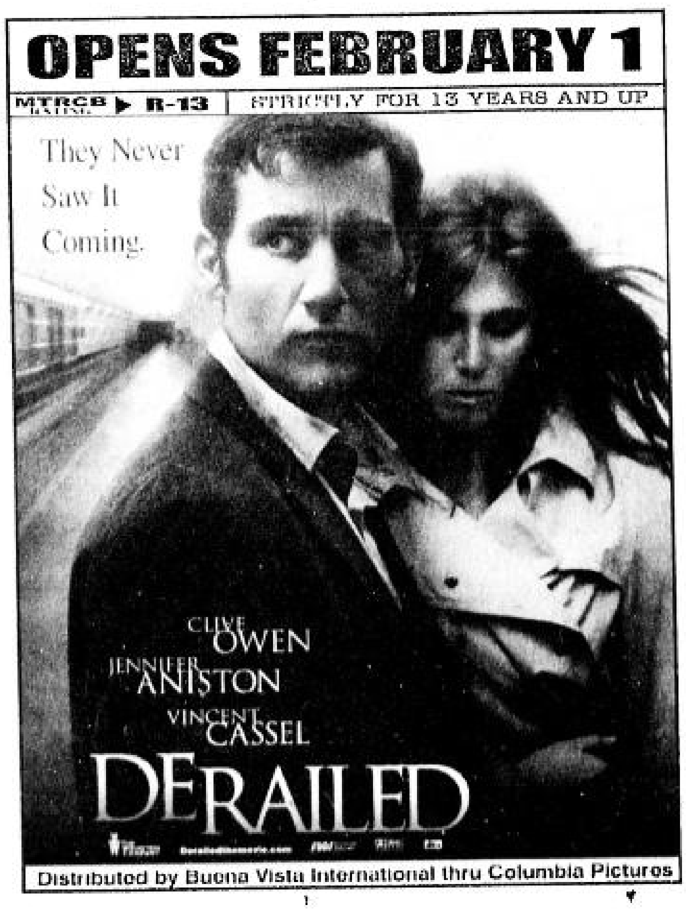

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the Maid
ALESSANDRA DE ROSSI
Distributed by Solar Entertainment Corporation

Pimentel's 'Pag-ibig sa Bayan' premieres tonight

SISON. Topbills timely musical about Martial Law.

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER ITS MERALCO THEATER RUN (JAN. 21, 28, Feb. 4), Bing Pimentel's musical on Martial Law, "Pag-ibig sa Bayan," is slated to go on a performance tour of schools and communities, to remind viewers of that dark chapter in the country's history, and the courageous struggle for freedom that ended it in 1986.

Tumultuous events

That was a full 20 years ago, so the new musical is both reflective and timely, especially for children and teenagers who are too young to have experienced those tumultuous events first-hand.

The musical strikes an empathetic personal note because its main focus isn't on the period's "official" events, which have already been dealt with by numerous documentary productions.

Instead, the musical (the script of which is based on Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel's new book, "Martial Law in the Philippines: My Story") focuses on the harrowing effects of despotic rule on the lives of the members of the Pimentel family.

Personal slant

This personal slant makes for greater empathy and individual relevance, enabling the musical play to make its thematic and dramatic points in a more convincing way.

Since "Pag-ibig sa Bayan" has been conceptualized as a touring production, its set and production design is portable and flexible. Thus, the production can be performed in any venue, including schools, town plazas, community centers, basketball courts and even moviehouses in the provinces.

This will make it easier for the musical to reach people all over the country, especially the youth, to move them with its cautionary dramatic tale of martial rule and its tragic consequences.

DIAZ. Plays the senator's wife, Bing.

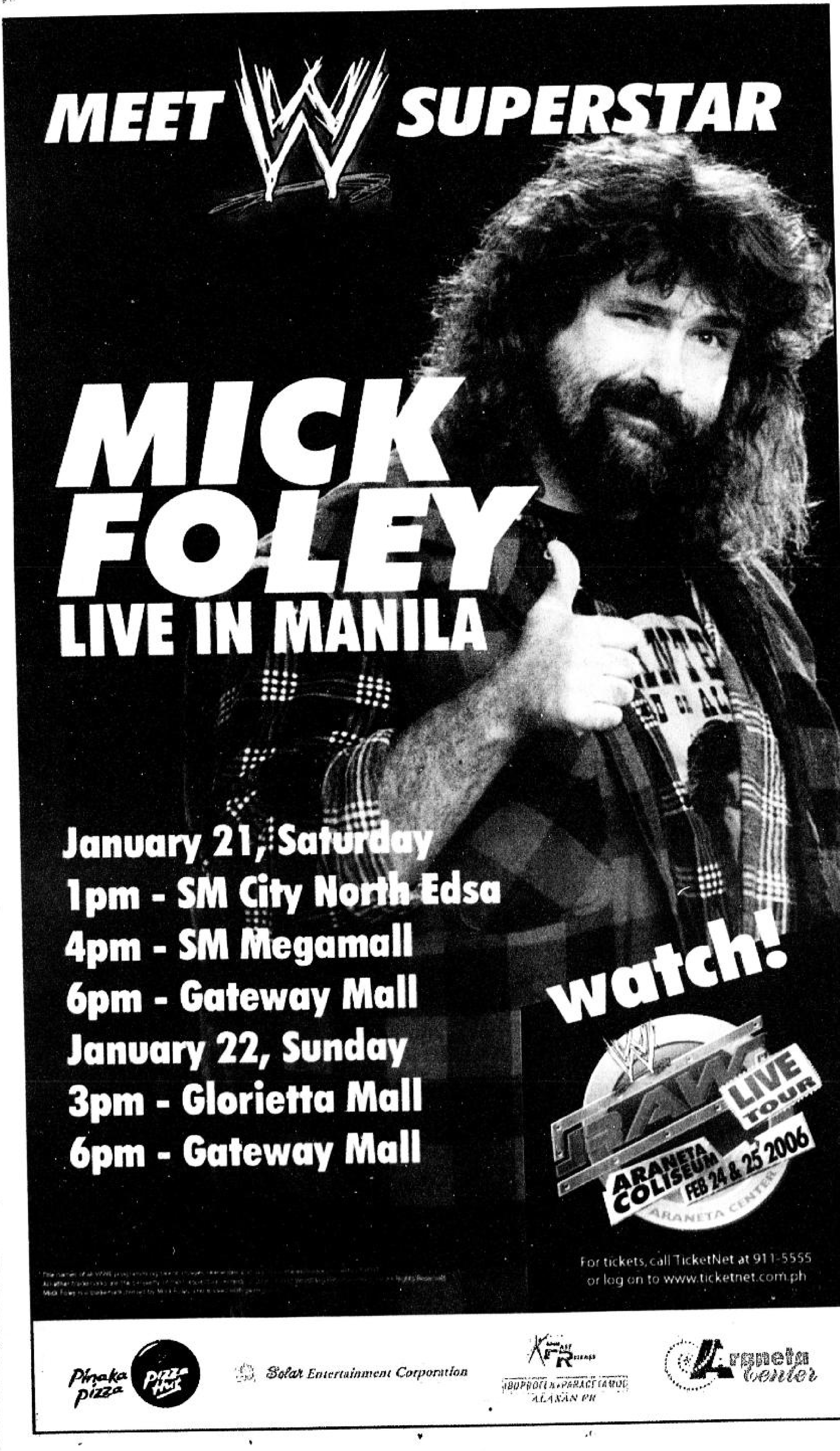
"Pag-ibig sa Bayan" topbills Marco Sison as Nene Pimentel and Jane Diaz as his wife, Bing. Also portraying important roles in the production are theater performers Rito Asilo, Andy Bais, Albert Jimenez, Jonas Santos, Nadja Matining, Karla Pambid, Russel Magno, Catherine Estabillo, Elijah Castillo, Mica Torre, Angel Gele, Michelle Vito, Roychell Torre, AJ Reyes, Marlon Capati, Vinia Pamplona, Angelo Endencia, Lito Esperacion, Lizette Duco, Neri An Narvaez, Mark Ryan Neri, Baby Resurrecion, Cecil Torre, Grace Castillo and many others.

Tribute

The musical features original songs composed by Bing Pimentel herself, including the play's patriotic theme song, a musical tribute to Ninoy Aquino, a wedding song, some love songs, and a number of inspirational tunes.

At the show's press conference, Bing's songs got an enthusiastic thumbs-up from the people present, and some of them predicted that the musical's patriotic theme and wedding song would have a life of their own even after the musical ends its performance run.

If you want "Pag-ibig sa Bayan" to be performed in your school or locality, call Ruby at 851-3120 or Sara at 552-6733.



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MRAZ. Performs at NBC Tent tonight.

Jason Mraz . . .

From page A2-1

would be commercially viable.

"I was concerned with the technical aspect of waxing an album, so I just recorded my favorite songs. This time, though, the whole experience was more spontaneous, I didn't have specific scenes in mind. I wrote about people and stories I knew."

Musical potpourri

"Mr. A-Z" is a sumptuous musical potpourri of the singer's easygoing but witty musings about life and love. (Our top choices: "Clock-watching," "Geek in the Pink" and the bittersweet, opera-tinged ballad, "Mr. Curiosity.")

He shared that his favorite tunes in the album change all the time: "I've always liked 'Bella Luna' and 'Please Don't Tell Her.' 'Song to a Friend' is one of the truest tunes on the record—it always evokes an emotion whenever I play it live."

Why did it take him three years to come up with a follow-up to "Rocket"? He explained, "After 'Rocket' came out, I was on the road for so long that I didn't get a chance to go to the studio. It took me a year to prepare materials for the new album, and about three months to record them."

Mraz denied any rivalry with another acoustic guitar-savvy popster, John Mayer, or with the Dave Matthews Band: "We're friends. I think we're all darn thankful about where we are!"

Provocative

But, it's not just his songs or his boy-next-door good looks that keep him in high demand among fans, writers and critics alike. His provocative pronouncements about love, friendship and music—even sexuality—add considerably to his mystique. When he talked about his latest collection, he even "defined" himself this way: "Jason Mraz is from space"!

In another interview, he disputed rumors that he was gay, but described himself as someone who has a "bisexually open mind. But, I've never been in a sexual relationship with another man."

When we asked him to elaborate on this, he calmly answered: "My mind is open to these things. There are a lot of open minds in the arts *and* in my social circle. I have quite a number of homosexual friends. When you're raised in that kind of social scene, you question your sexuality, because you have an open mind to love—man *and* woman!

Intimate relationship

He is, in fact, in an intimate relationship with singer-songwriter and former model, Tristan Prettyman, and collaborated with her in the song, "Shy That Way," for her own debut album, "twentythree."

These days, everything looks peachy for Jason Mraz—especially now that his "rocket" has finally arrived. With the release of "Mr. A-Z," it's ready to take off again, but this time, he's taking us along for the glorious ride!

SATURDAY *Special*

2006 'American Idol' is off to a rollicking start

CARRIE UNDERWOOD. Who will succeed her as this year's top 'AI' winner?

By Nestor U. Torre

THE FIFTH SEASON OF "AMERICAN IDOL" has just started on Star World and ABC-5, and it looks like this could be the best year yet for the hit US singing search.

Jurors Paula Abdul, Randy Jackson and Simon Cowell appear to agree with that initial assessment, and seem to have raised their standards for auditionees' inclusion in the tilt's semi-finalist roster this year.

Some early birds are coming across as possible stellar singing talents, including a 16-year-old girl and two 17-year-old boys who have "boy-next-door balladeer" written all over them.

Auditions

Incidentally, as the two boys did their separate auditions, Paula had a sexy gleam in her eyes, and looked like a cat who was about to pounce on a couple of yummy canaries. Uh, Ms Abdul, let's learn from last year's sticky experience, shall we?

Rib-poking remarks aside, we note that the 2006 show is auditioning an inordinate number of twins, and two sets of look-alike siblings have already gotten the judges' nod.

We've also seen a set of sisters with great looks and pipes being given the green light, so this year's "American Idol" could end up as a distinctly "family" show.

Trouble is, sets of siblings in past editions of the show have fared poorly in the subsequent elimination rounds, so this year's siblings shouldn't get their hopes up.

Other observations: There don't seem to be many successful Asian-American auditionees just yet. We caught a Fil-Am type auditioning in Chicago, but she bombed.

—And no William Hung sound-alike is anywhere in sight, darn it!

Due to the show's great success (it was the No. 1 US TV program last season), it's drawing huge mobs of auditionees this year.

Jurors

In Chicago alone, 10,000 hopefuls showed up, and the harried jurors had their hands—and ears—full trying to cope with all of the attendant cacophony and unmusical ululations!

In retaliation, Simon Cowell has already come up with two new zinging diatribes aimed at hapless non-talents:

"You sound like somebody is strangling you!"

"And *you* sound like nine cats in a vat of boiling water!"

Meeeeow!—Oh, that catty Cowell…

Aside from finding the rare musical diamonds in the rough who can be developed into the singing stars of tomorrow, "American Idol" is perversely popular because it takes visual and aural potshots at the worst "talents" and weirdos who dare to torment the judges at its marathon auditions.

This year, there are so many of them crawling out of the woodwork that the show is having a field day baring their loud and livid excesses on the appropriately named boob tube.

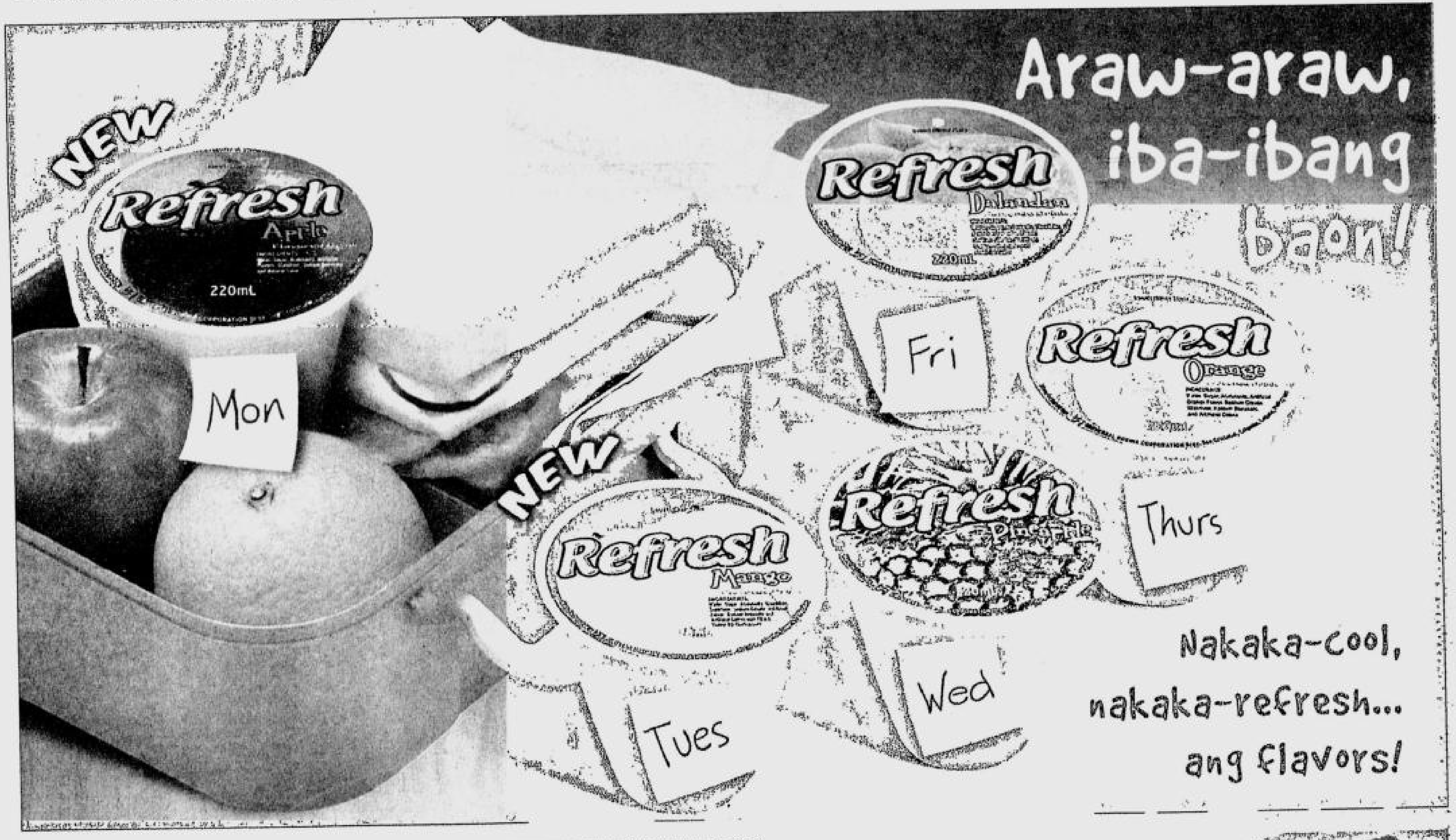
Qualifications

This is deemed "entertaining" in a cynical way, but the non-talents being held up for ridicule don't think it's funny at all. They get back at the "deaf, blind and dumb" judges by impugning their qualifications, objectivity and gender—but, the jurors have the last laugh, of course!

Is it true that "American Idol" has auditioned half-a-million hopefuls since its first season? And that a *billion* text-votes have been cast by viewers for their best bets?

If so, that's big bucks and boffo ratings, so we'll definitely be watching as the TV singing tilt's latest season unreels.

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
Jennifer ANISTON
Kevin COSTNER
Shirley MACLAINE
Mark RUFFALO
Rumor has it...
Based on a true rumor.
SECTION EIGHT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Alanis gets her musical act together

By Noelani Torre

MORISSETTE. Objectivity and inspiration.

FOR THOSE WHO belong to a certain age group, one of last Christmas' presents was no doubt a purple-colored CD from a certain formerly angst-y female artist. Yes, *that* one—and, yes, she's still very much with us.

Conveniently released just before the holiday season's gift-buying frenzy, Alanis Morissette's first retrospective collection—conveniently titled "The Collection"—is the singer's 10th album, and her second for 2005. The first was "Jagged Little Pill Acoustic," released to commemorate the 10th year anniversary of "JLP."

These two albums have prompted some to wonder whether Ms Morissette has finally run out of things to sing about.

Interview

Not so, said the singer in a previous interview—"The Collection" is merely her "sorbet between entrées." The year 2005 "turned into my time to acknowledge, for the first time, everything that I've done."

This anthology is not really a "greatest hits" collection. Neither is it, strictly speaking, a "best of." As she wrote in the inlay, "These songs hold a soft spot in my heart," but "to consider them my favorites wouldn't take into account the fact that my favorites can change as I do."

What "The Collection" is, she explained, "is a great overview of the past years, to provide objectivity, and some slate-cleaning inspiration for where I'm about to go, as I

ALANIS/ A3-3

Rukmini's prayer

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

FIVE THOUSAND years ago, there was a highly advanced devotee of the Supreme Person by the name of Rukmini.

She once offered a wonderful prayer with great humility and love to the Supreme Being in which she explained the absolute nature of the Supreme, and the proper condition of human beings in society. Excerpts:

"My dear Lord, unlike others, You do not require to purchase anything extraneously. With You, all contrary things can be adjusted because You are absolute. You do not possess anything, but no one is richer than You.

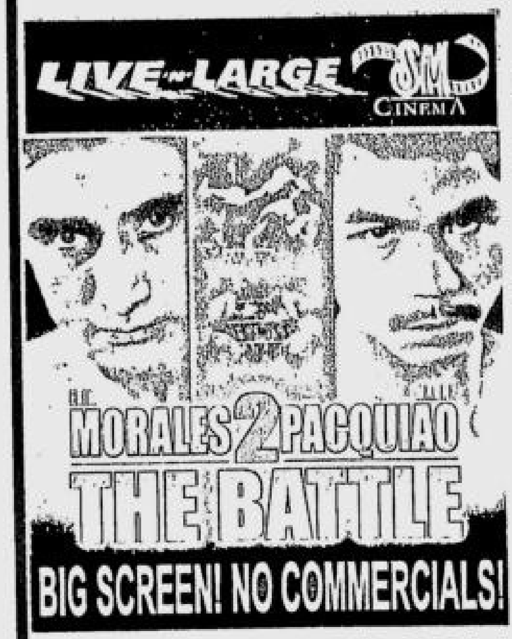
"In the material world, no one can be rich without possessing. Since Your Lordship is absolute, You can adjust the conditions of possessing nothing, but at the same time, being the richest.

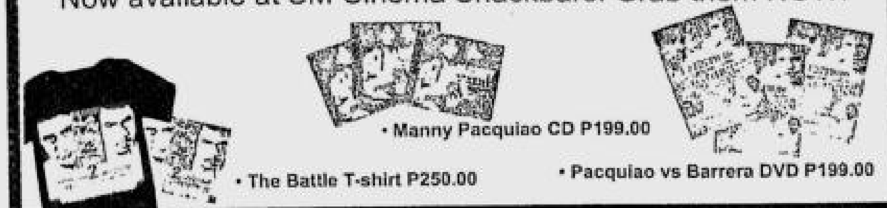
Devotion

"In the Vedas, it is stated that although You have no material hands and legs, You accept everything that is offered in devotion by the devotees. You have no material eyes and ears, but still, You can see everything everywhere, and You can hear everything everywhere.

"My dear Lord, You have said that the richest section of human society does not worship You. That is correct, because persons who are puffed up with material possessions think of utilizing their property for sense gratification.

"When a poverty-stricken man becomes rich, he makes a program for sense gratification. This is due to ignorance: He thinks that his money is properly employed in sense gratification, and thus, he neglects to render transcendental service." *(To be concluded)*





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MEGAMALL
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CEBU (032) 231-3876
RESERVED
UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION 10:30FS/10:40MF/12:50/03:30/05:10/07:20 09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:15END
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 11:20FS/11:30MF/02:00/04:30/07:00 09:03LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END

MANILA
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 10:30FS/12:55MF/03:05/05:10/07:20 09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 AKO LEGAL WIFE
2 UNDERWORLD 2
3 BLUE MOON
4 NARNIA
5 KING KONG
6 UNDERWORLD 2
7 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
8 RUMOR HAS IT
9 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
11 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
12 LITTLE MANHATTAN

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 NARNIA
3 KING KONG
4 RUMOR HAS IT
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 AKO LEGAL WIFE
7 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
8 LITTLE MANHATTAN
9 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
10 BLUE MOON

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 NARNIA
4 KING KONG

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UNDERWORLD 2
UNDERWORLD 2
3 NARNIA
DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
AKO LEGAL WIFE
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
3 KUTOB
4 UNDERWORLD 2
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 KING KONG
7 UNDERWORLD 2
8 NARNIA
9 RUMOR HAS IT
10 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
11 BLUE MOON
12 LITTLE MANHATTAN

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
UNDERWORLD 2
2 RUMOR HAS IT
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 NARNIA
5 LITTLE MANHATTAN
ENTENG KABISOTE 2
WHO'S YOUR DADDY
KING KONG
KUTOB
RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
ENTENG KABISOTE 2
2 UNDERWORLD 2
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 NARNIA

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 UNDERWORLD 2
KING KONG
DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 AKO LEGAL WIFE
5 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
LITTLE MANHATTAN
7 RUMOR HAS IT
8 NARNIA

SM CITY MANILA
1 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
2 RUMOR HAS IT
3 KING KONG
4 NARNIA
5 LITTLE MANHATTAN
6 UNDERWORLD 2
DON'T GIVE UP ON US
8 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
9 UNDERWORLD 2
10 AKO LEGAL WIFE
11 BLUE MOON
12 ST. ANGE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
UNDERWORLD 2
2 NARNIA
3 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
4 BLUE MOON
5 RUMOR HAS IT
DON'T GIVE UP ON US

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
NARNIA
WHO'S YOUR DADDY
IN HER SHOES
ENTENG KABISOTE 2
BEAUTIFUL BOXER
DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 NARNIA
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 IN HER SHOES
DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO
1 NARNIA
2 ST. ANGE
3 BEAUTIFUL BOXER
DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BACOOR
WHO'S YOUR DADDY
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
3 NARNIA
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
5 UNDERWORLD 2
6 RESERVED
BLUE MOON
KING KONG

SM CITY MARILAO
NARNIA
DON'T GIVE UP ON US
THE MAN
ST. ANGE

SM CITY DASMARINAS
NARNIA
2 THE MAN
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 ST. ANGE

SM CITY LUCENA
1 NARNIA
2 BEAUTIFUL BOXER
3 THE MAN
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 NARNIA
4 AKO LEGAL WIFE

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 RESERVED
2 UNDERWORLD 2
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
IN HER SHOES
WHO'S YOUR DADDY
KING KONG
DON'T GIVE UP ON US
NARNIA

SM CITY ILOILO
WHO'S YOUR DADDY
RESERVED
NARNIA
PRIME
DON'T GIVE UP ON US
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
RESERVED
IN HER SHOES

SM CITY DAVAO
1 NARNIA
2 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 IN HER SHOES
5 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 NARNIA
BLUE MOON
DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

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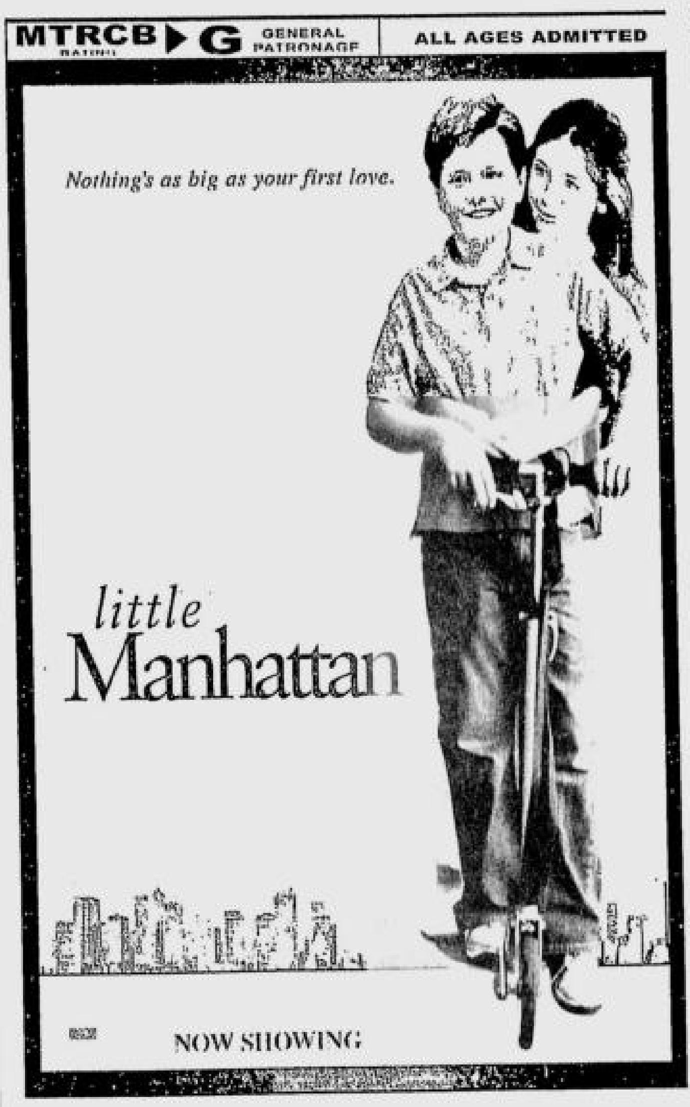

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CINEMA 5 UNDERWORLD R13 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
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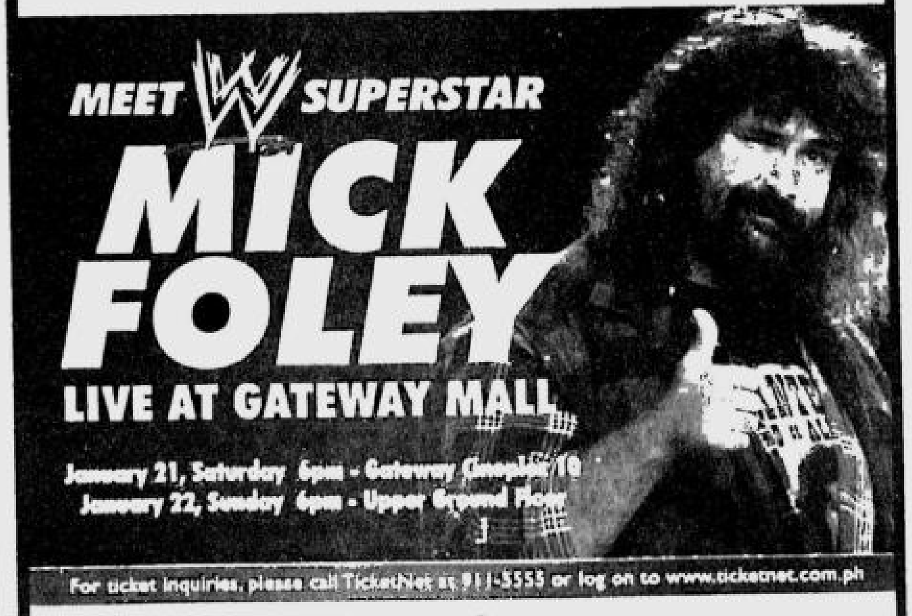

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RUMOR HAS IT 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
FAMILY STONE 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40
NARNIA 1:10 / 4:00 / 6:50 / 9:40
LITTLE MANHATTAN 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
BLUE MOON 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30
JARHEAD 1:55 / 4:30 / 7:05 / 9:40
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DON'T GIVE UP ON US 12:45 / 3:15 / 5:45 / 8:15
UNANG TIKIM 12:10 / 2:10 / 4:10 / 6:10 / 8:10
UNDERWORLD 2 1:10 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10
JARHEAD 12:35 / 3:10 / 5:45 / 8:20
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NOW SHOWING

Gyllenhaal, Costner enthrall in latest starrers

GYLLENHAAL. Inspired performance.

By Rito P. Asilo

"Jarhead"

D: Sam Mendes
S: Jake Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard, Jamie Foxx

WAR IS POINTLESS. THE tone of the consistently visual-savvy Sam Mendes' ("American Beauty") latest film, based on Anthony Swofford's autobiographical book, may be deceptively apolitical, but he makes no bones about his political leanings.

The movie chronicles the "adventures" of 20-year-old Swofford (Jake Gyllenhaal), a third-generation marine enlistee who, in 1989, found himself in the midst of "Operation Desert Storm"—to act as a pawn in a war that he doesn't understand, and to fight for a cause that he doesn't fully fathom.

As the scenes play out on the big screen, you see "jarheads" (slang for marines) anticipate active combat and wrestle against their biggest enemy: Boredom.

They are encouraged to "entertain" themselves by cleaning rifles, talking about sex, religion and the meaning of life—or browsing through Filipino mail order bride catalogues!

The film's linear narrative doesn't have the gore and grime of other testosterone-heavy war films, but the gritty statement spotlights the pointlessness of war.

Gyllenhaal, with ample support from Jamie Foxx ("Ray") and Peter Sarsgaard ("Kinsey"), delivers an inspired performance reminiscent of his incandescent turn in "October Sky."

"Rumor Has It..."

D: Rob Reiner
S: Jennifer Aniston, Kevin Costner, Shirley MacLaine

When Sarah (Jennifer Aniston), along with her fiancé, Jeff (Mark Ruffalo), flies home to attend the wedding of her sister, Annie (Mena Suvari), some well-kept family secrets begin to unravel—and she *can't* shake them off her system until she gets to the bottom of things!

Rumor has it that she may be the product of her mother's indiscretion—with a guy named Beau (Kevin Costner)—three days *before* her mom married her father!

Charles Webb's bestselling book that spawned Mike Nichol's film classic, "The Graduate"—about the May-December affair of 42-year-old Mrs Robinson (Anne Bancroft) and 21-year-old Benjamin (Dustin Hoffman)—is allegedly based on actual events that involved her family: Are "Mrs. Robinson" and "Benjamin" really her grandmother, Catherine (Shirley MacLaine) and Beau, respectively?

The plot may be stale and contrived, but the production is redeemed by the appealing turns of Aniston, Ruffalo and MacLaine—but, *that's* no surprise: The rom-com genre is like second skin to these actors.

For his part, Kevin Costner has been delivering low-key but intensely charming performances of late. His touching turn in Mike Binder's "Upside of Anger" has, in fact, won him critical acclaim, the most recent of which is the San Francisco Film Critics' best supporting actor trophy.

In Rob Reiner's latest film, he enthralls again—and that's no rumor!

COSTNER. Low-key but intensely charming.

Mark Shinoda goes solo

By Noelani Torre

LINKIN PARK'S MIKE SHINODA wears a lot of hats. Not only is he LP's MC, he's also the keyboardist, rhythm guitarist, and co-producer—and as though that weren't enough, he's decided to hang even more hats on his musical rack: He has decided to go solo.

Hold up for a moment: This does not mean that Linkin Park is splitting up (the band says they're as happy as clams, and will soon release a new album). Shinoda just wanted to have a project on the side.

Focus

"I was a producer and rapper before Linkin Park," he said in an online interview. "Once the band took off, it was the center of my focus. A couple of years ago, I missed doing straight-up hip-hop, and that's when Fort Minor began."

Fort Minor is the name of Shinoda's rap alter-ego, and "The Rising Tied" is the name of the group's released album. "It's called Fort Minor," he explained, "because there are a bunch of other people involved in the project."

Despite the fact that his name isn't on the front cover, however, "The Rising Tied" is clearly Mike Shinoda's baby. He mixed, produced, wrote the songs, played practically all of the instruments—he even did the artwork! You have to agree, *that's* a lot of hats—and he wears them all with aplomb!

Rock elements

"The Rising Tied" is solid, good old hip-hop. If you're a fan of only the rock elements of Linkin Park's music, then this CD may not be for you. There's a tinge of rock, but the stars of the show are Shinoda's rhymes and heavy beats.

SHINODA. Wears all his hats with aplomb.

"One great thing about being at this point in my career," Shinoda said in another interview, "is that I can oversee a record of my own and do whatever I want on it. I had an identity in mind for the album, and built around that. Folks like Styles of Beyond, Common, and Black Thought fit into that picture."

Aside from the abovementioned artists, guests Holly Brook, John Matranga, Eric Bobo, John Legend and Kenna add variety to Shinoda's listless beats, and he incorporates their talents well in the album's overall soundscape.

Shinoda is a good enough rapper, but what's more memorable are his words themselves. He's intelligent and has a more articulated socio-political awareness than your usual street thug/angry rapper.

Articulate

He's articulate enough to have birthed the album's most distinctive song—"Kenji"—which delves into the Shinoda family's experiences in US internment camps for Japanese immigrants during World War II.

He also rather incisively parallels the hip-hop business with the tobacco industry in "Cigarettes."

Though he does the usual self-congratulatory rapper strutting in some tracks, they are less substantial and don't resonate with the sincerity that he's poured into his more intellectual or emotionally laden numbers.

Significant Page in Philippine entertainment

By Behn Cervantes

"MY STAY IN THE PHILIPPINES was the most memorable episode of my life," says Joan Page, the star of Sampaguita Pictures' "Ang Asawa Kong Amerikana." Page lived in the Philippines from 1948 to 1952.

The stately blonde came to the country for a series of performances at the Manila Grand Opera House as a member of an American performing group. However, the Dayrits, who ran the theater, decided to use Joan's photo at the lobby of the historic venue.

Stardom

Her sudden stardom didn't sit well with other members of the American ensemble, but Joan hit it off with local audiences because she was the closest Manila came to Hollywood blondes like Betty Grable.

Katy de la Cruz, the grand dame of Philippine vaudeville, candidly informed the California native that, if she wanted to win the *Pinoy* audience, she had better learn some Filipino songs.

PAGE (WITH OSCAR MORENO, LEFT). Won over the *Pinoy* audience by learning to speak Tagalog.

Joan agreed, so Katy quickly taught her Mike Velarde's "Dahil Sa 'Yo." The Filipinos appreciated her effort to make a visceral connection with the local crowd, and responded with great affection.

Soon after, she became the most recognizable foreigner in the country. She couldn't go anywhere without being mobbed by an enamored crowd!

Page starred in Eddie Romero's "Ang Asawa Kong Amerikana" opposite Oscar Moreno. She worked with Tita Duran, Pancho Magalona, the young Dolphy, and a new starlet named Gloria Romero. She then headlined the long-running radio series, "Edong Mapangarap," with talented Eddie San Jose.

Joan's closest chum was LVN dramatic actress Erlinda Cortez, who remains her bosom pal to this day. As an aside, she recalls how Coco Trinidad would tease her.

Regional ditties

The *masa* loved her because she learned to speak Tagalog. She made it a point to sing regional ditties during her many public appearances. She rendered songs in *Ilokano*, *Kapampangan* and *Waray*—as coached by Katy de la Cruz!

Despite her celebrity, Joan had to work around the clock because talent fees were rather insubstantial then. She even spent time doing social work in the Mandaluyong Psychiatric Center!

Family

Eventually, in 1953, she returned to the United States, married and raised a family. She is now a grandmother. As often as possible, she puts the Philippines' best foot forward by appearing in cultural shows in California.

Joan only has fond memories of the Philippines, and of the many friends she made during the segment of her life she refers to as "my most significant years."

She visited the country last year and so enjoyed the sentimental trip that she came back for what she thought would be her last visit to the country, whose people had adopted her as one of their own!

Alanis gets . . .

From page A3-2

continue to chronicle the unfolding of my life and my personal observations."

To be more specific, it's a bunch of songs culled from "JLP," "Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie," "MTV Unplugged," "Under Rug Swept," "Feast On Scraps," "So-Called Chaos" and from the soundtracks of "The City of Angels," "Dogma" and "De-Lovely."

It also includes a cover of Seal's "Crazy," the first single released from "The Collection."

The album is an eclectic compilation, and though it may sound uneven, it nevertheless gives you a fairly comprehensive look at Alanis' work thus far.

'Gee Gee at Waterina' at CCP

MONTAGE

POPULAR COMEDIAN LOU Veloso is currently starring in the comedy, "Gee Gee at Waterina," at the CCP's Tanghalang Huseng Batute. The play by J. Dennis Teodosio is half of Tanghalang Pilipino's twinbill of comedies, along with Chris Martinez's "Welcome to Intelstar," with performances ongoing until Jan. 29.

Co-starring with Veloso in "Gee Gee at Waterina" is Paulo Cabañero. Roobak Valle directs.

Call 832-3661.

'Spider-Man 2'

HBO screens "Spider-Man 2" at 8 p.m. on Jan. 22. The hit movie stars Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst. It won an Oscar for best achievement in special effects and grossed $784 million worldwide.

'Chronicles of Narnia'

Walt Disney's fantasy adventure, "The Chronicles of Narnia," grossed a whopping P18.6 million on Jan. 8, its opening day in the Philippines. Internationally, the film has made $525 million—and counting.

'Pagsalubong sa 2006'

Ogie Alcasid, Alfred Vargas, Pauleen Luna, Ricky Davao, Jenine Desiderio, Loui Poe, Roanne Mallari, Ivy Violan and Richard Merk recently sang for the children of movie workers in SNACK-Mowelfund's "Pagsalubong sa 2006."

This is the 18th year of the annual activity held by Bibsy Carballo of SNACK Arts, and the second year in partnership with Boots Anson-Roa's Mowelfund.

Pat Upton

Pat Upton, former lead singer of Spiral Staircase, performed yesterday at the Aliw Theater, and sings today (dinner show) at the Manila Hotel, and on Jan. 22 at Waterfront Cebu.

DUNST. Topbills Marvel's superhero flick opposite Maguire.

VELOSO. Reprises Markova role in acclaimed play.

Upton's special guests are Gabe Lapano of the Cascades, Ramon "RJ" Jacinto and the Song Masters (Tito Cayamanda, Vehnee Saturno, Nonoy Tan and Mon del Rosario).

'Love Comes Home'

On Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the CCP Little Theater, a pre-Valentine concert, "Love Comes Home," welcomes back two of the Philippines' exceptional musicians based in North America: soprano Lilac Caña and blind pianist and tenor Carlos "Chuckie" Ibay. Lilac and Chuckie are sharing the stage for the first time.

Call Sinag Tala at 726-1297, or the CCP box office at 832-1125.

Wings Tour

Winston's 2006 Wings Tour goes to Pier 16 Bar and Restaurant, Iloilo City, today, featuring True Faith. On Jan. 27, Sugarfree performs at Ratsky, Morato, and True Faith performs at Suburbia, Malate on Jan. 28.

'Laging Ikaw'

At 4 p.m. today, the mall tour for Dingdong Avanzado and Jessa Zaragosa's "Laging Ikaw" album hits SM North Edsa. Dingdong and Jessa will perform cuts from the record, including the title track.

'Cerrudo: My Gift'

Join Bimbo Cerrudo as he celebrates his birthday with the special dinner concert, "Cerrudo: My Gift," at Quisine, 6750 Ayala Ave., Makati on Jan. 28.

Recurring debate on National Artist award heats up

By Nestor U. Torre

NOW THAT IT'S NATIONAL Artist selection time, the country's artistic community is in a dither over backing all sorts of aspirants for the plum honor.

Why the excitement, desperation, ambition, galloping egos and unseemly lobbying, as the case may be? What's so wonderful about being hailed as a National Artist?

Well, as most artists will tell you, it's great to be honored by your peers as the very best in your artistic field.

Realists

But, what about artists who are light years away from being the best?—Well, some dour realists sniff, you can't blame an artistic guy or gal for trying!

These thoughts come to mind, because we've just gotten a gander at some of the people angling for this year's award—and, a number of aspirants clearly vivify what vaulting ambition is all about!

They should be reminded that the National Artist award honors not resolute mediocrity and connections with sundry powers that be, but excellence, pioneering artistic endeavors, both national and international stature, consistently exceptional work—and, above all, outstanding creativity.

In other words, the award is not intended to reward organizational or managerial ability, educational attainment or involvement, or institutional leadership—there are other awards that can honor those admittedly admirable qualities.

Rigorous

Going by that yardstick, only a few senior artists are really qualified to become National Artist—that's why the award's selection process is so rigorous.

So, lesser artists should concentrate instead on creating exceptional art for some more years, so they can truly merit the National Artist honor in the future.

The question of creative eligibility is key, but what's really confounding many artists is the issue of "presidential prerogative"—which means that the President claims to have the option to declare someone a National Artist who has not emerged from the award's official selection process.

If memory serves, some four presidents have exercised this prerogative, with generally disconcerting results. Dissenting artists feel insulted when a president feels he or she is better equipped to detect and reward artistic excellence than the leaders of the country's artistic community themselves.

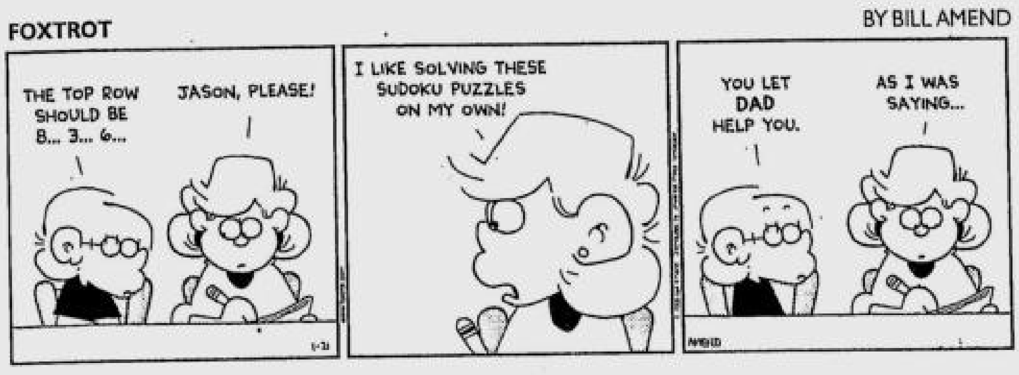
Embarassment

Will the same embarrassment occur again this year? Well, the presidentially-honored artist will be ecstatic, but many other artists won't.

So, we ask the chief executive: Is the personal and momentary thrill worth the resulting community-wide dismay and flak?

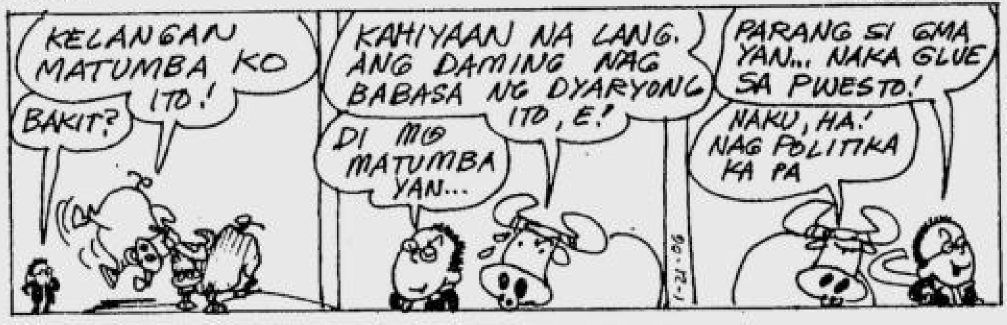
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


THE TOP ROW SHOULD BE 8... 3... 6...
JASON, PLEASE!
I LIKE SOLVING THESE SUDOKU PUZZLES ON MY OWN!
YOU LET DAD HELP YOU.
AS I WAS SAYING...

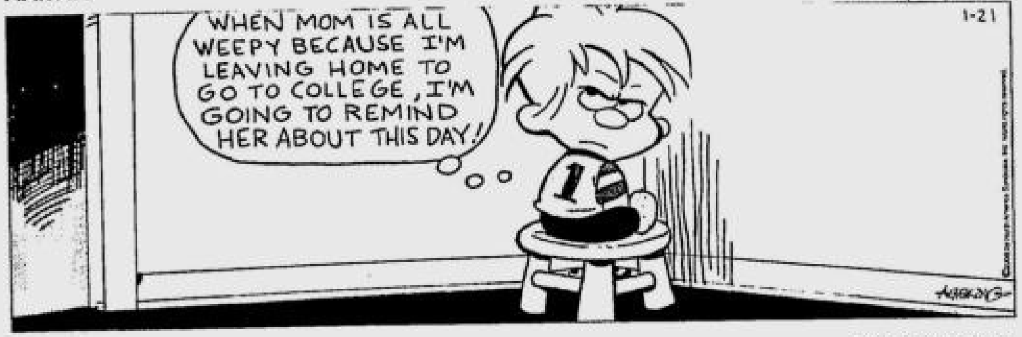
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KELANGAN MATUMBA KO ITO!
BAKIT?
KAHIYAAN NA LANG. ANG DAMING NAG BABASA NG DYARYONG ITO, E!
DI MO MATUMBA YAN...
PARANG SI GMA YAN... NAKA GLUE SA PWESTO!
NAKU, HA! NAG POLITIKA KA PA

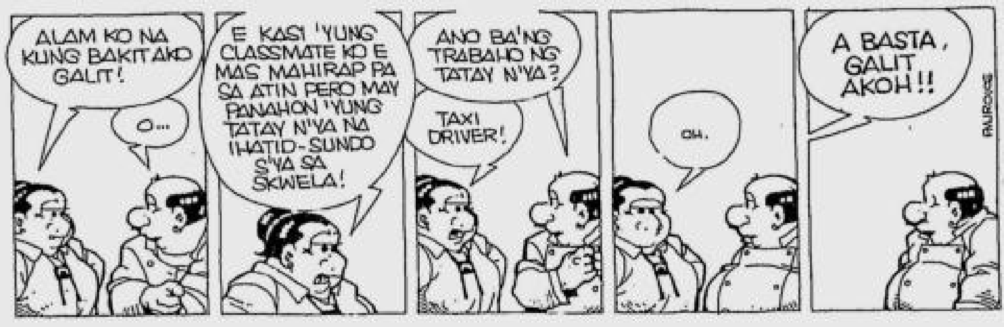
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WHEN MOM IS ALL WEEPY BECAUSE I'M LEAVING HOME TO GO TO COLLEGE, I'M GOING TO REMIND HER ABOUT THIS DAY!

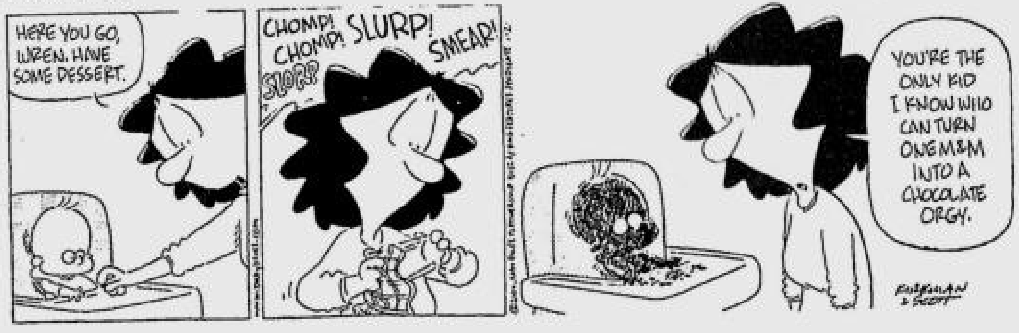
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ALAM KO NA KUNG BAKIT AKO GALIT!
O...
E KASI 'YUNG CLASSMATE KO E MAS MAHIRAP PA SA ATIN PERO MAY PANAHON 'YUNG TATAY N'YA NA IHATID-SUNDO S'YA SA SKWELA!
ANO BA'NG TRABAHO NG TATAY N'YA?
TAXI DRIVER!
OH.
A BASTA, GALIT AKOH!!

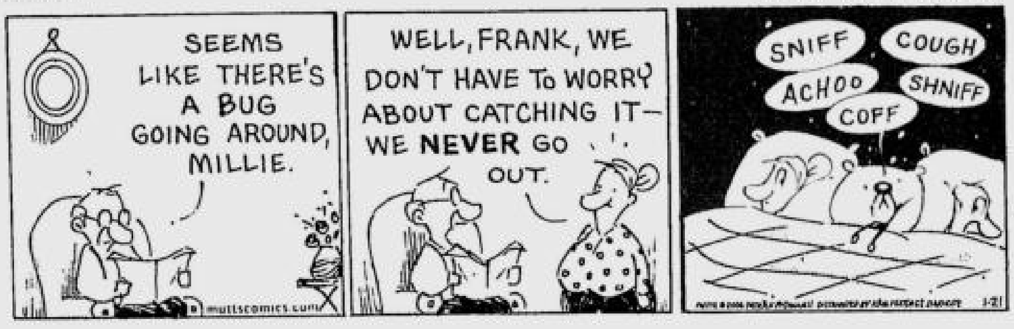
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HERE YOU GO, WREN. HAVE SOME DESSERT.
CHOMP! CHOMP! SLURP! SLORP SMEAR!
YOU'RE THE ONLY KID I KNOW WHO CAN TURN ONE M&M INTO A CHOCOLATE ORGY.

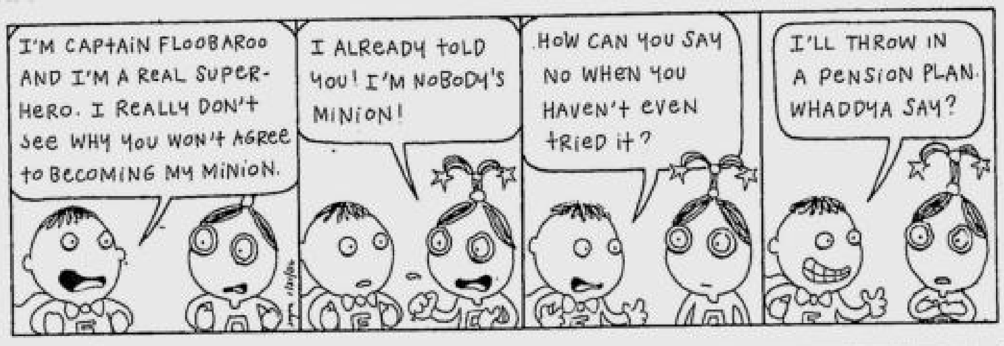
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SEEMS LIKE THERE'S A BUG GOING AROUND, MILLIE.
WELL, FRANK, WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT CATCHING IT— WE NEVER GO OUT.
SNIFF
COUGH
ACHOO
SHNIFF
COFF
muttscomics.com

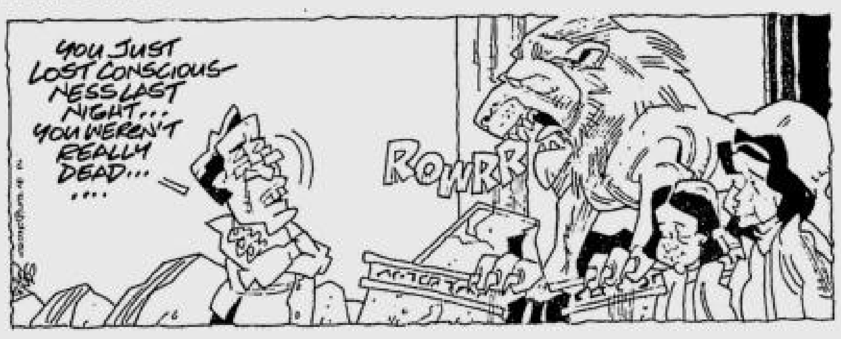
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I'M CAPTAIN FLOOBAROO AND I'M A REAL SUPER-HERO. I REALLY DON'T SEE WHY YOU WON'T AGREE TO BECOMING MY MINION.
I ALREADY TOLD YOU! I'M NOBODY'S MINION!
HOW CAN YOU SAY NO WHEN YOU HAVEN'T EVEN TRIED IT?
I'LL THROW IN A PENSION PLAN. WHADDYA SAY?

DIVINE COMEDY

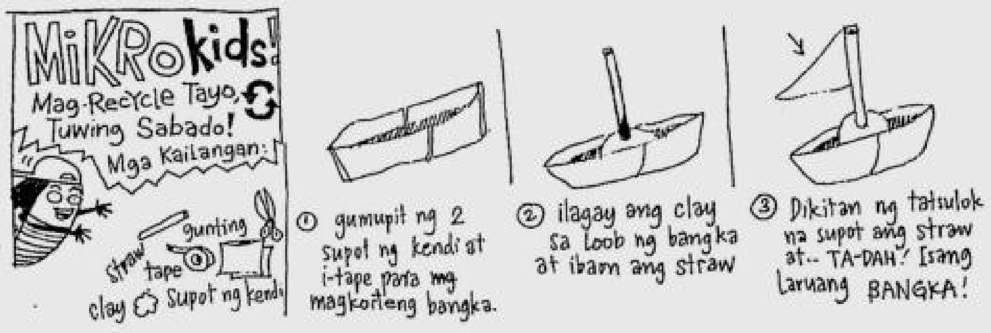
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


YOU JUST LOST CONSCIOUSNESS LAST NIGHT... YOU WEREN'T REALLY DEAD...
....
ROWRR

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE SKEPTIC

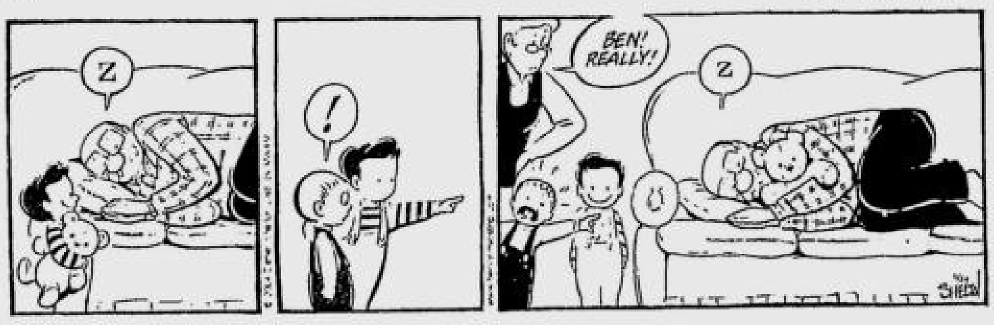
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRO kids!
Mag-Recycle Tayo, Tuwing Sabado!
Mga Kailangan:
gunting
straw
tape
clay
Supot ng kendi
① gumupit ng 2 supot ng kendi at i-tape para mg magkorteng bangka.
② ilagay ang clay sa loob ng bangka at ibaon ang straw
③ Dikitan ng tatsulok na supot ang straw at.. TA-DAH! Isang laruang BANGKA!

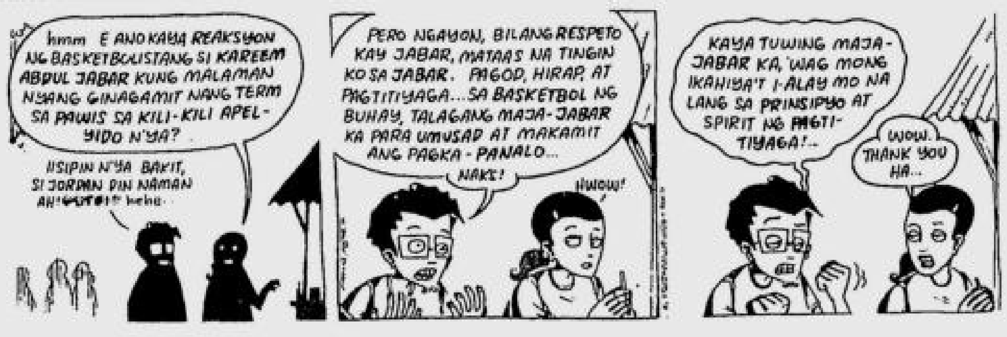
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


Z
!
BEN! REALLY!
Z

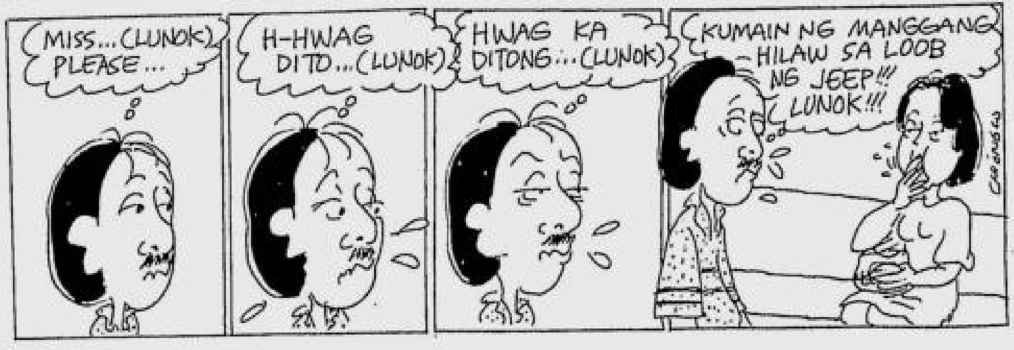
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


hmm E ANO KAYA REAKSYON NG BASKETBOLISTANG SI KAREEM ABDUL JABAR KUNG MALAMAN NYANG GINAGAMIT NANG TERM SA PAWIS SA KILI-KILI APELYIDO N'YA?
ISIPIN N'YA BAKIT, SI JORDAN DIN NAMAN AH! hehe
PERO NGAYON, BILANG RESPETO KAY JABAR, MATAAS NA TINGIN KO SA JABAR. PAGOD, HIRAP, AT PAGTITIYAGA... SA BASKETBOL NG BUHAY, TALAGANG MAJA-JABAR KA PARA UMUSAD AT MAKAMIT ANG PAGKA-PANALO...
NAKS!
HWOW!
KAYA TUWING MAJA-JABAR KA, 'WAG MONG IKAHIYA'T I-ALAY MO NA LANG SA PRINSIPYO AT SPIRIT NG PAGTI-TIYAGA!..
WOW. THANK YOU HA...

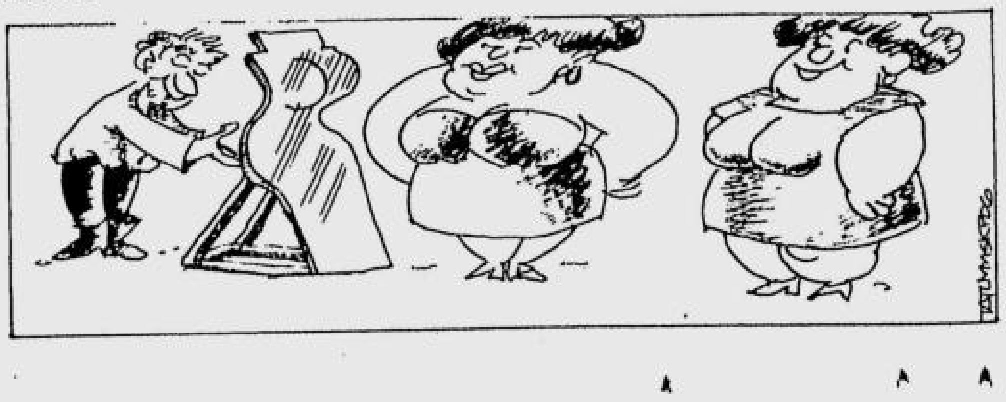
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MISS... (LUNOK) PLEASE...
H-HWAG DITO... (LUNOK)
HWAG KA DITONG... (LUNOK)
KUMAIN NG MANGGANG HILAW SA LOOB NG JEEP!!! LUNOK!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You do things in a colorful way. People notice you. You're playful and fun-loving; but you're also serious and determined. You always juggle these two sides. You have excellent people skills: You can work with all kinds of people from all walks of life. In your head, you'll have to make an important decision.
Birthdate of: Charlotte Ross, actress; Jack Nicklaus, golfer; Geena Davis, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You see ways of improving close relationships and partnerships today. Step-by-step, change is brought about through little things slowly adding up.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Speak up about new ways of doing things differently at work. You see room for improvement around you. Your concerns might be minor, but if you do something about it, everyone benefits.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Parents might see a more enlightened way to guide children today. Similarly, teachers working with children can see a better method. "Criticism does much, but encouragement does more" (Goethe).

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a good day to take out the garbage and get rid of whatever you don't need. Return empties. Recycle what you can. Clean the place up!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): When talking to siblings and neighbors today, you feel the urge to tell them how they can make some improvement. If you can get away with this—tactfully—do it. Otherwise, zip your lip.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You can definitely spend money today to refinish, recover or restore something so that you will be pleased. Excellent! Not all things in life are disposable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You have some ideas about how to improve your health and your appearance. Hold that thought. There's always room for improvement—is there not?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Interesting secrets might be revealed today. (Let's hope they're not about you.) Somehow, you'll be involved in private conversations today. Hush, hush.

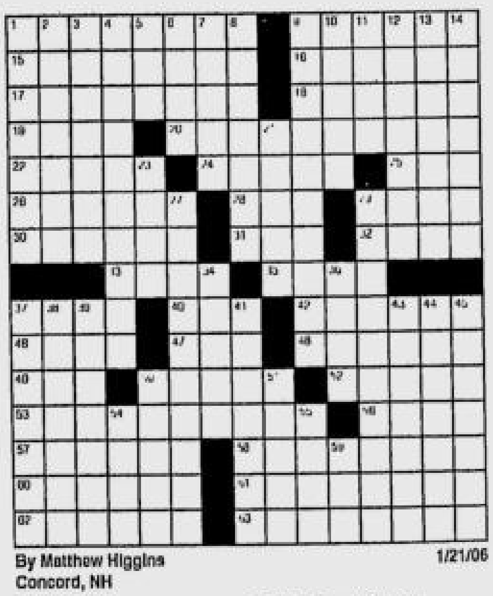
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Conversations with a friend are intense today. Perhaps this person is trying to improve you, or vice versa. Don't risk a friendship over something like this. (Always keep a friend.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Expect intense exchanges with parents and bosses today. However, perhaps something good can come of it. Essentially, people are looking for better ways to do things.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Emotional outbursts because of religious, political or philosophical beliefs are possible today. It's OK to feel passion about something. It's better than apathy. Why not get others excited about your project as well?

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You see exciting, new ways for you to do something. Whatever it is could involve something that is jointly held or shared property of some kind. You could work with this somehow.

DAILY CROSSWORD

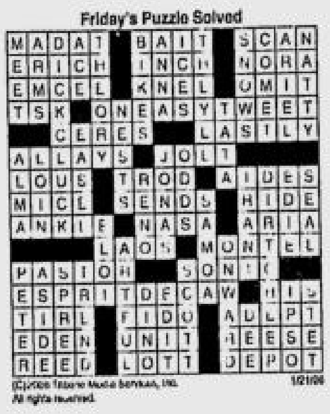


By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH
1/21/06

ACROSS
1 Performed a post-trip chore
9 Superlatively indolent
15 Manner of speaking
16 Subtle difference in meaning
17 Coarse undergarment fabrics
18 Satellite of Neptune
19 Humble homes
20 Atlantic coast populace
22 Correct: pref.
24 __ firma
25 Spanish river
26 Condor's claws
28 Brit. flyboys
29 Goneril's pop
30 Detective
31 Draw
32 Mid-month
33 Bar in a tub
35 End of a fox?
37 Level in London
40 Chip in chips
42 Got back to level
46 Seine sights
47 Keyboard spacer
48 Nonessential amino acid
49 Rank below cpl.
50 Eliot's Marner
52 Pro driver
53 Provincial governors
56 Exactly
57 Lady of "The Raven"
58 Perfect expression
60 '50s crooner
61 Bee factories
62 Athenian lawgiver and namesakes
63 Friday or York

DOWN
1 Results
2 Not affected
3 Chatter meaninglessly
4 Homeless shelters
5 Variable motion producer
6 Hit with a bent leg
7 Brilliant success
8 Meal finisher
9 Pokes one's nose in
10 Egyptian corn
11 Lie's past participle
12 Signed up for
13 Lava cinders
14 Certain muscles
21 Attribute
23 Not bamboozled by
27 Slovenly condition
29 Imaginative writing
34 Thunder and laughter sounds
36 Somewhere beyond
37 Wavelets
38 Pasta sauce
39 Trademark barbiturate
41 Emotional shocks
43 Cypriot capital
44 Not consumed
45 Superlatively sprightly
50 Philosopher Kierkegaard
51 Inclined surface
54 Singer Perry
55 Ruckus
59 Binge

Friday's Puzzle Solved



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1/21/06

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	2 UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION	3 RUMOR HAS IT	4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 RUMORS HAS IT	2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US	3 THX THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 JARHEAD	5 LITTLE MANHATTAN	6 UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION	7 THE FAMILY STONE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 RUMORS HAS IT 11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30	2 UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION 11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9.05, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	3 JARHEAD 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 LITTLE MANHATTAN 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 RUMOR HAS IT 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9.05, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION	2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	3 RUMOR HAS IT	4 JARHEAD	5 LITTLE MANHATTAN		
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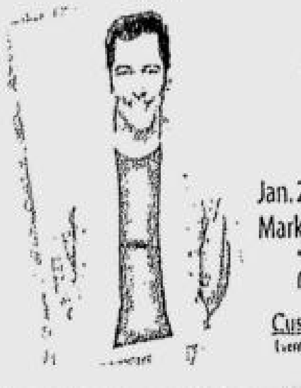
② LITTLE MANHATTAN
③ DON'T GIVE UP ON US
④ THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
⑤ RUMOR HAS IT...

EVENTS! EVENTS!



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1 UNDERWORLD 2 • THX
12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00
2 UNDERWORLD 2
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
3 The Chronicles of NARNIA
1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50
4 JARHEAD
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50
6 LITTLE MANHATTAN
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
7 KING KONG
2:30 6:00 9:30
8 RUMOR HAS IT
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
9 THE FAMILY STONE
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50
10 BLUE MOON 12:20 2:45
AKO LEGAL WIFE 5:10 7:35 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 UNDERWORLD 2 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
2 LITTLE MANHATTAN
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
3 JARHEAD
12:30 2.50 5:10 7:30 9:50
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
11:30 1:35 3:40 5:45 7:50 10:00
5 The Chronicles of NARNIA
12:50 3:50 6:50 9.50
6 RUMOR HAS IT
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
7 KING KONG 11:00 2:20
SAINT ANGE 6:10 8:00 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 JARHEAD
1:05 3:40 6:15 9:00
2 UNDERWORLD 2
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:15
4 RUMOR HAS IT
1:35 4.05 6.35 9:05
5 BEAUTIFUL BOXER
1.40 4:00 6:20 9.00
6 BLUE MOON
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
7 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00
8 KING KONG
1:30 5:05 9:00

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 JARHEAD
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 UNDERWORLD 2
5 KING KONG

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

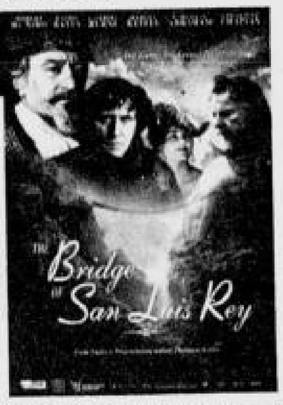
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 UNDERWORLD 2
3 JARHEAD
4 RUMOR HAS IT

CHECK THIS OUT ▶▶

THE Bridge OF San Luis Rey



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5 JUST LIKE HEAVEN

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2 SAINT ANGE
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 The Chronicles of NARNIA
5 IN HER SHOES

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2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 BLUE MOON
4 IN HER SHOES

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2 BEAUTIFUL BOXER
3 The Chronicles of NARNIA
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

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6 The Chronicles of NARNIA

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2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
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5 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
6 BEAUTIFUL BOXER

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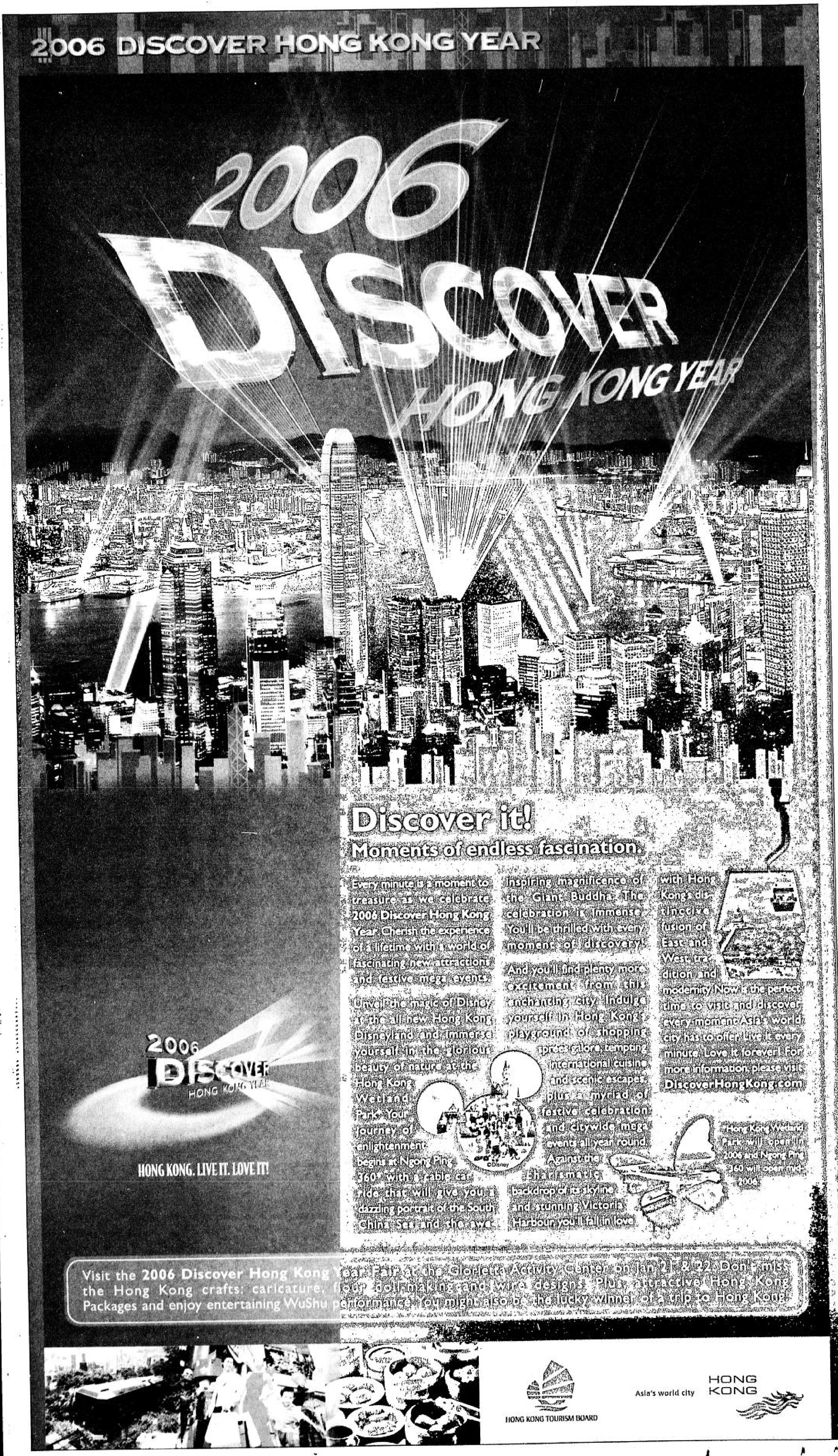

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*Hong Kong Wetland Park will open in 2006 and Ngong Ping 360 will open mid-2006.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

SM unit to raise P6.1B via GDRs /B2

Taxes on hybrid car parts scrapped /B4

RP seen among top 3 invest sites for '06

ING exec says investors have looked beyond politics

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES HAS been picked by the giant Dutch financial firm ING Investment Management as among the top three attractive investment sites for 2006 along with Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Top officials from ING, giving an "overweight" view on Philippine equities and fixed income markets, yesterday said that the tide had turned favorable especially given the recent progress on fiscal reforms that could lead to a "stable" credit rating outlook by major credit rating agencies soon.

"More and more investors are getting comfortable with Philippine risk," said ING's chief investment officer in the Philippines Paul Joseph Garcia.

Political uncertainties and high global oil prices, however, were cited as the key risks to this rosy outlook.

Hong Kong-based Nicholas Toovery, ING's regional head of equity, said a diversified portfolio was always advisable but if the list were narrowed to only three countries as top investment picks, Taiwan, Hong Kong and the Philippines would be "at the top of the list."

Garcia explained that the local stock market had been a laggard versus other markets and still offered a lot of upside potential.

"This is going to be the fourth year when the Phisix (Philippine Stock Exchange composite index) has performed higher than the previous year. It would be the first time in more than two decades that the Phisix would be moving upward for fourth consecutive years and for me that's a good feat," Garcia said.

Unlike other equity markets in the region, some of which were now trading at their record highs, Garcia said the local stock market has a long way to go back to the all-time high of 3,300 in the mid-1990s.

From an average return of 15 percent last year, Garcia said returns from local equities could hit 20 percent this year and that asset valuation was still cheap. ING also expected the Phisix to test 2,500 within the next 12 months.

"The sectors we're looking at are cyclical sectors like properties, banks and utilities. Mining continues to be speculative but we're looking at it on a medium- to long-term (basis)," Garcia said.

"Political uncertainty will of course dampen market sentiment, but if you look at last year's performance, investors have basically moved ahead and looked beyond politics and looked at un-

RP SEEN/ B2

Gov't seeks ADB grant for GOCC program

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT is in talks with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on a grant to finance a program on improving the financial performance of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs).

The Department of Finance said the ADB has expressed willingness to provide the grant, although the government was required to submit a report on the components of the program to determine how much money would be needed.

Finance Undersecretary Corazon delos Santos, in charge of monitoring state-owned firms, said the program would include studies on the financial performance of GOCCs in the past and the necessary policies to instill fiscal discipline among them.

The program will also include the establishment of a scorecard system, under which GOCCs will be given a list of work objectives and be penalized or rewarded based on their performance.

The program will likewise cover the rationalization of the organizational structures of GOCCs to eliminate unnecessary functions and make them focus on their mandates.

"What we want is to come up with policies that will help improve their (GOCCs') operations," Delos Santos told reporters.

The finance official said the government was also in discussion with the Partnership for Economic Government Reform (PEGR), an Australia-based non-government organization, to seek advisory assistance in the establishment of better policies to supervise GOCCs.

The government's fiscal woes, characterized by a huge budget deficit and increasing debts, were partly blamed on alleged mismanagement of some GOCCs.

State-owned firms like National Power Corp., the National Food Authority, and the Light Rail Transit Authority accounted for bulk of the deficits of the government's corporate sector.

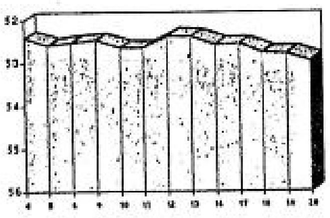
The national government has allotted P10 billion to pay for the separation benefits of affected state workers. The DOF stressed, however, that the separation from government would be voluntary. Those whose functions would be dissolved but still wanted to stay in government would be transferred to offices that need additional human resource.

Delos Santos said the rationalization measure is targeted to be completed within this year to complement the government's fiscal reform agenda of achieving a zero budget deficit by 2008.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



JANUARY

P 52.96 = $

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 20, 2006

Y 115.58= $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 20, 2006

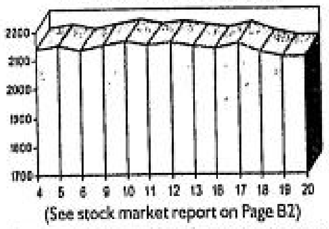
GOLD: **$547.80-548.30**

per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 19, 2006

STOCK MARKET

Shares close flat due to bargain-hunting

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE PRICES closed virtually flat yesterday in mixed trade, finishing the week on a steadier note, dealers said.

They said sentiment was mixed, with investors nervous about the latest political developments but at the same time bullish about the long-term prospects for the economy and the government's fiscal performance.

The composite index slipped 0.83 points to 2,108.25 after trading between 2,101.57 and 2,112.79. Volume was 3.13 billion shares worth P1.13 billion.

However, gainers beat losers 47 to 27, with 49 stocks unchanged. The all-shares index fell 1.31 points to 995.54. *AFP*

Abacus in $400-M investment spree

LISTED FIRM ABACUS CONSOLIdated Resources & Holdings Inc. yesterday unveiled plans to invest heavily in a wide array of projects in Southern Luzon worth up to $400 million.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), Abacus said it will "participate as an equity partner" in projects such as "the development of areas in and around the Batangas port and the Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon) airport."

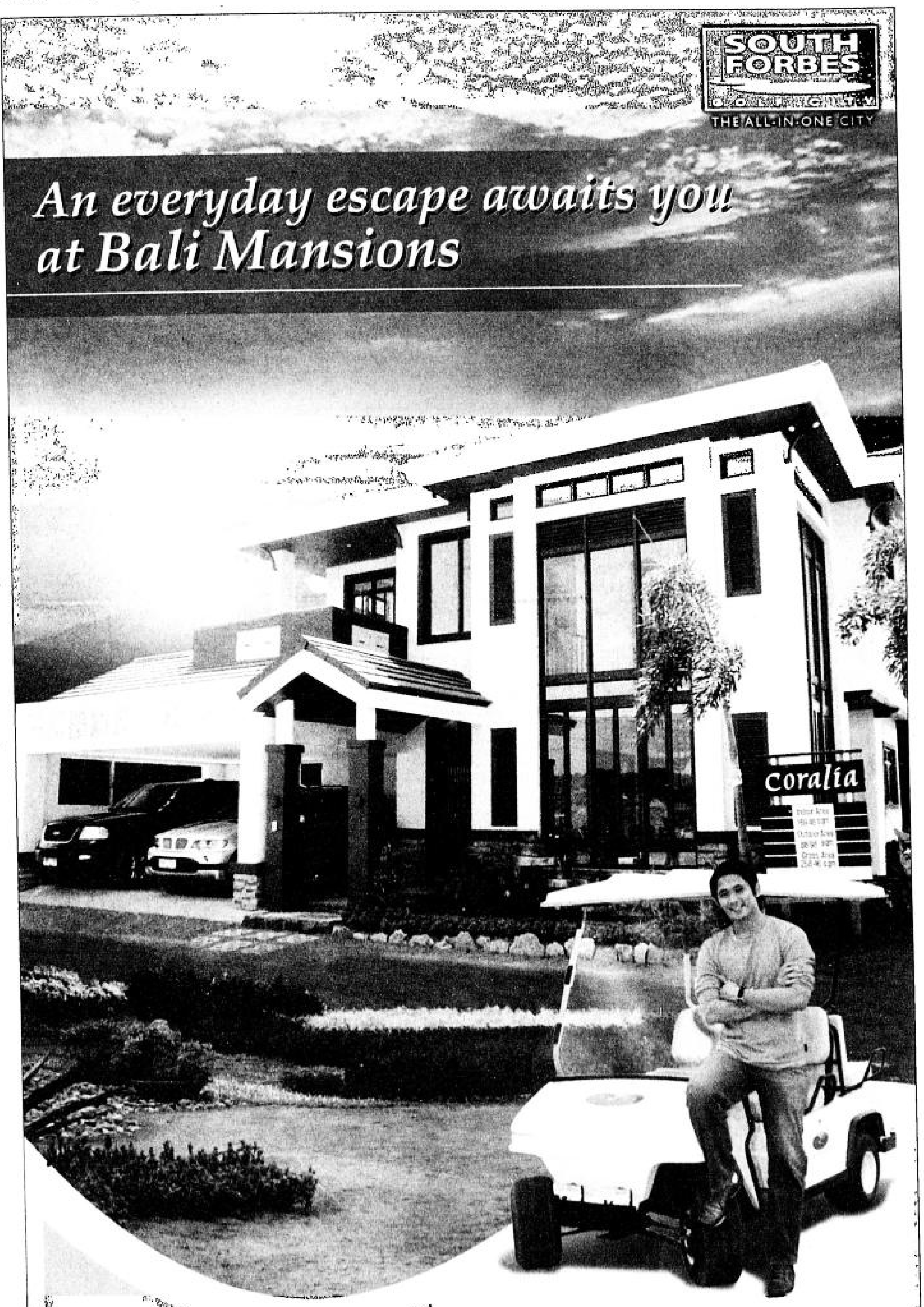
Abacus is a holding firm whose business interests presently include financial management services and gaming.

Abacus' corporate secretary Joaquin E. San Diego said the firm also plans to invest in "other businesses such as those in mining, real estate, tourism, and technology-based services."

"The company estimates that capital requirements for various ventures will reach approximately $400 million," he said.

Abacus unveiled the plan after it acquired 96.4 percent of the Philippine Regional Investment Development Corp., an investment house, through a P1.1-billion share swap agreement with the firm. The acquisition is part of a larger P2.5-billion capital raising exercise approved by Abacus' board in June of last year.

During yesterday's trading at the PSE, punters took advantage of developments in the company, pushing Abacus' shares higher by 23 percent on P4.5 million worth of transactions, making it one of the top gainers for the day. Abacus' shares closed at P0.008 per share from the previous day's level of P0.0065 apiece. *Daxim L. Lucas*



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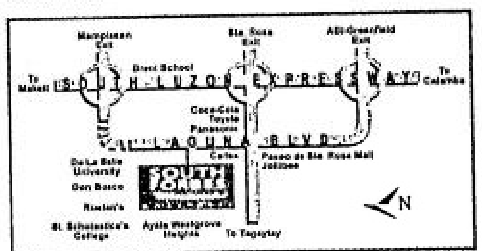

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Another Prestige Project of: CATHAY LAND, INC.

SM unit to raise P6.1B via GDRs

News of fund-raising exercise lifted SMIC price in the market

By Daxim L. Lucas

SM INVESTMENTS CORP., THE HOLDING firm of mall tycoon Henry Sy, will raise $115.5 million—slightly over P6.1 billion—through the sale of global depositary receipts (GDRs) by its subsidiary.

A company official said the proceeds would be used as a "steady source of financing" for the company. He stressed that it is "not earmarked" for any particular acquisition or debt repayment.

"We just have a lot of projects in the pipeline," the official said, requesting not to be named. "This will be for general corporate purposes."

In its disclosure to the stock exchange, SMIC said it will issue up to 9.1 million in GDRs priced at $12.70 each.

A GDR fund-raising instrument is where a bank certificate gets issued in a foreign country for shares of stock traded in another company. The underlying shares are held by the local branch of an international bank, and are traded in an overseas stock market.

SMIC's 60-percent owned subsidiary, Primebridge Holdings Inc., will issue the GDRs to be traded on the London Stock Exchange, making SMIC the first Filipino firm to enter the European stock market.

A similar facility was used by the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. when it raised money in the US through the listing of American depositary receipts on the New York Stock Exchange.

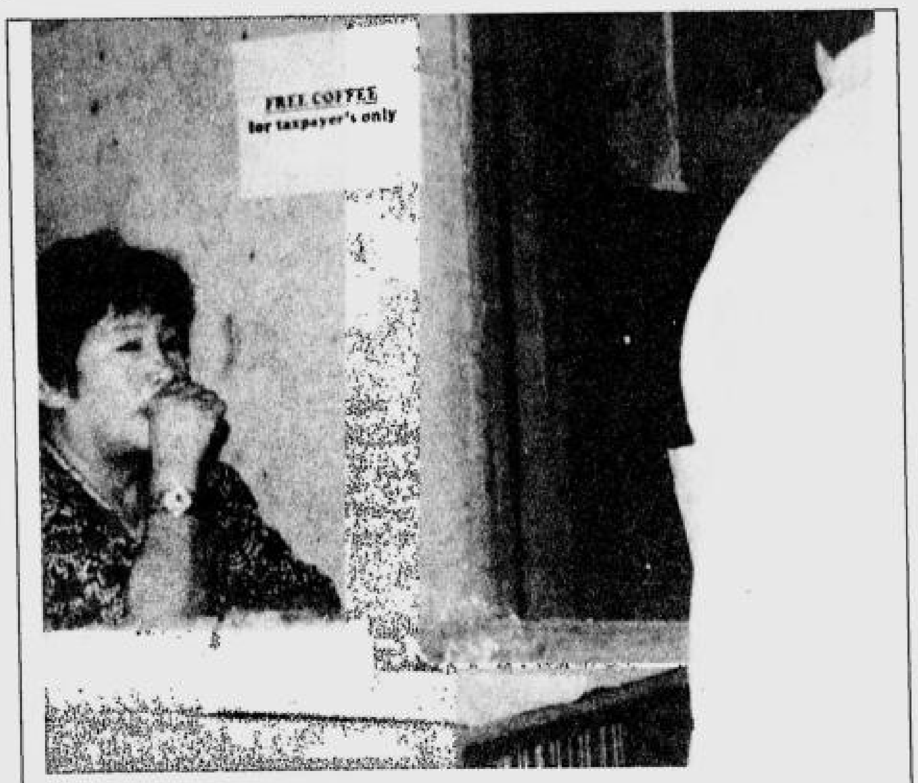
Primebridge will use its holdings in Banco de Oro Universal Bank—also owned by the Sy family—as the underlying securities to back up the GDRs.

Each GDR will be backed up by 20 shares in BDO, the company yesterday said in its disclosure.

The SMIC board appointed Australia-based Macquarie Bank Ltd. as lead manager for the issue, and the Bank of New York as depository for the shares.

News of the fund-raising exercise lifted SMIC's price to P240 per share at the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday from P239 apiece in the previous trading session, on P51.7 million worth of transactions.

Banco de Oro's shares were also higher marginally, closing at P36.50 per share from the previous day's price of P36 apiece.



TAXPAYERS' TREAT
Settling the annual real estate and business taxes is not how everyone hopes to start the year. But at the Baguio City Hall, officials are trying to ease the pain, by offering prizes to the first 700 taxpayers, while cups of free coffee await those in line behind the prizewinners.
VINCENT CABREZA

Peso drops to 3-week low

THE PESO YESTERDAY dropped to its lowest level in three weeks against the dollar, hurt by worries about a fresh plot to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Dealers said that although the officers involved were junior army officers, the incident was enough to unsettle local markets late this week.

"It should be temporary but there are jitters in the market because of the escape of the junior officers who rebelled against the government in 2003," a trader said. "Who knows if there are senior officers supporting them on the ground?"

The peso weakened as far as 52.90 per dollar, down about a fifth of a percent from Thursday's domestic close and the weakest level since Jan. 2.

It has retreated just over one percent from 2-½ year highs hit earlier this month.

Analysts also said that the inflows of cash from overseas workers that were particularly strong at the end of last year had also eased, removing a layer of support for the currency.

Dealers said they were watchful of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which could come into the market to support the peso.

"If dollar/peso goes up to 52.88/90, we think they could come into the market again," the trader said.

Reuters

Ayala chair to step down in April

THE CHANGING OF the guard in the country's oldest and most prestigious industrial house will be completed this year after Ayala Corp. yesterday announced that Jaime Zobel de Ayala will step down as chairman this April.

In a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange and the Securities and Exchange Commission, the company said Zobel announced his decision to retire from the chairmanship during Ayala Corp.'s board meeting yesterday.

All told, Zobel has spent 49 years with the company, starting as a trainee in the insurance group in 1957.

"Over the years, he held various assignments within the Ayala Group, including the chairmanship of Ayala Land, Ayala Life Assurance Company, Bank of the Philippine Islands, BPI Family Savings Bank, BPI International Finance Limited (Hong Kong), FGU Insurance Corporation, Globe Telecom, Pure Foods Corporation, Universal Reinsurance Corporation, and the Ayala Foundation, Inc.," the statement said.

He has served as Ayala's chairman for the last 22 years. He skillfully steered the company as concurrent chairman, president & CEO during the eventful decade of 1984 to 1994.

Upon his retirement, Zobel will continue as chairman of Mermac Inc., the family-owned holding company.

The statement was silent on the issue of Zobel's successor although it is widely expected that his son, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, currently Ayala Corp. president and CEO, will take over the chairmanship when he relinquishes the reins of the 171-year old company.

Daxim L. Lucas

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Jan. 20, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	36	36.5	36	36.5	1,423,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56	56	55.5	55.5	2,194,400
China Banking Corp.	605	605	605	605	10
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	61.5	62	61.5	62	46,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	30.5	29	30	3,871,600
Philippine National Bank	32	32.5	32	32	43,900
Phil Savings Bank	35	35	35	35	11,300
Security Bank Corp.	36.5	36.5	36.5	36.5	11,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	100
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Manulife Financial Corp.	3065	3100	3065	3100	220
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	95,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	146	146	145	145	4,500
Ivantage Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	120,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	52.5	53	52.5	53	1,317,400
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	13.75	13.75	81,700
Manila Electric Co. B	21.25	21.25	21	21.25	531,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	4,635,000
Petron Corp.	4.7	4.85	4.7	4.75	6,942,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	3,800
Jollibee Foods Corp.	38.5	39	38.5	39	94,600
Pancake House Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	50,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.5	82,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63.5	64	63.5	64	37,400
San Miguel Corp. B	86.5	87.5	86.5	87.5	19,000
Universal Robina Corp.	19.25	20	19.25	20	84,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	1,850,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.02	1.02	0.95	0.96	4,911,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.35	4.4	4.35	4.4	3,129,000
CHEMICALS					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	9,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	20,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0775	0.0725	0.075	18,900,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	2,100,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	23,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.0085	0.007	0.008	598,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	35,000,000
Ayala Corp.	325	327.5	325	325	8,060
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.52	0.53	550,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.9	4.85	4.85	419,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.024	27,900,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.2	2.26	2.2	2.26	1,930,000
APC Group Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.24	910,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	30,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.91	0.94	0.91	0.91	4,580,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	14,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.65	0.67	0.65	0.66	70,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9	9	9	9	13,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.12	4,157,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.15	384,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	36,000
JG Summit Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.5	4.2	4.45	5,691,000
Medco Holdings	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.4	300,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Pacifica	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.01	16,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.245	0.27	0.245	0.26	16,040,000
SM Investments Corp.	238	240	238	240	216,260
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	20,000
Uniol Res. & Holdings Co	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	2,300,000
Vivant Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	7,727,700
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	400,000
Belle Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.04	1.04	3,428,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.185	0.205	0.185	0.2	13,030,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.36	1,271,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.82	1.86	567,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.225	0.24	0.225	0.225	2,860,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.31	3,420,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	6,090,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	60,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.48	907,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	10,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.23	1,960,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.49	230,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.38	4,483,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	2,990,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.135	0.145	0.135	0.135	610,000
Polar Property Holdings	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	5,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.155	0.155	0.15	0.155	1,210,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.8	5,918,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	4,310,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12.25	12.5	12.25	12.5	2,300
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.92	0.93	1,160,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	725	745	725	740	53,630
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.35	3.4	2,893,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1800	1805	1785	1785	114,300
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	200,000
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	11,000,000
Ionics Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	15,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.049	0.05	0.049	0.05	10,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0625	0.0525	0.06	163,100,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	20,000
Philweb Corp.	0.023	0.026	0.023	0.026	1,638,200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.5	257,300
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	90,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.64	3,884,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	9	9	9	9	14,000
Ipeople Inc.	3.05	3.05	3	3	68,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.6	20,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.34	1.34	92,000
Paxys Inc.	7.3	7.7	7.3	7.6	4,758,000
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.22	1.22	1.16	1.16	1,282,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.74	1.76	1.7	1.7	2,782,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	53,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.3	6.6	6.2	6.4	3,450,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	10,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	7,200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	4,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	4,600,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.027	58,900,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	226,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	330,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	2.2	2.22	2.16	2.18	6,766,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	25.5	26	25	26	286,800
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	600,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.37	0.38	0.36	0.36	330,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	450,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	54,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.95	4.15	3.95	4.1	661,000

CURRENCIES

January 20, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.826378	1	52.823
Japan	Yen	0.007181	0.008666	0.4578
United Kingdom	Pound	1.454591	1.7602	92.979
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.10658	0.128972	6.8127
Switzerland	Franc	0.643747	0.778998	41.149
Canada	Dollar	0.710374	0.859623	45.4079
Singapore	Dollar	0.507323	0.613911	32.4286
Australia	Dollar	0.617714	0.747496	39.485
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.192507	2.653153	140.1475
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220355	0.266652	14.0854
Brunei	Dollar	0.505771	0.612033	32.3294
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000088	0.000107	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.021066	0.025492	1.3466
UAE	Dirham	0.224993	0.272264	14.3818
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.2101	63.9211
Argentina	Peso	0.271388	0.328407	17.3474
Brazil	Real	0.355386	0.430052	22.7166
Denmark	Kroner	0.133989	0.16214	8.5647
India	Rupee	0.018722	0.022655	1.1967
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220544	0.26688	14.0974
Mexico	New Peso	0.078658	0.095184	5.0279
New Zealand	Dollar	0.56094	0.678794	35.8559
South Africa	Rand	0.138359	0.167428	8.844
Korea	Won	0.000843	0.00102	0.0539
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025755	0.031166	1.6463

RP seen among . . .

From page B1

derlying macroeconomic fundamentals as far as the fixed income and equity markets are concerned," Garcia said.

ING forecasts that Philippine bonds would continue to do well but not as spectacular as last year's performance wherein fixed income assets outperformed equities.

"Equities will outperform bonds this year. Equity risk premium has declined for the Philippines as seen in lower interest rate, stable currency and stable earnings," Garcia said.

The return on peso bonds last year was close to 19 percent due to the reduction in bond issuances, but now that much of the positive news on the fiscal front had been priced in, ING expects bond yields to decline to a net of 8-10 percent after tax.

Timothy Matson, ING regional head of fixed income, said while the institution was giving an "underweight" recommendation for fixed income globally, the view on the Philippines remained "overweight."

"Credit spreads are extremely tight right now so companies can borrow at a very good rate but it's not good for the bond investor. But we think rates may go higher in Asian bonds as more issuers are coming in particularly in the higher yield market," Matson said.

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Taxes on hybrid car parts scrapped

Malacañang issues EO488 bringing down tariff from 1%-3% to zero

By Abigail L. Ho

FURTHER BOOSTING EFFORTS TO promote the use of alternative transport fuels, Malacañang has issued an executive order removing the tariff on components, parts and accessories that will be used in the assembly of alternative fuel-fed vehicles.

Signed just last Jan. 12, EO 488 brought down to zero from between 1 and 3 percent the tariff slapped on components, parts and accessories of vehicles that will run on fuels such as biodiesel, bio-ethanol, compressed natural gas and electricity.

LOTILLA

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the EO should further encourage vehicle assemblers and manufacturers to produce hybrid, flex-fuel, electric and CNG-fed vehicles.

Also, this EO should accelerate the integration of alternative fuels into the mainstream fuel market.

Even before the issuance of the EO, American car giant Ford has already committed to invest $20 million for the establishment of a factory that will produce flex-fuel vehicles, or those that run on alternative fuels, in the Philippines.

This will be the vehicle manufacturer's first such facility in Asia.

"We hope other vehicle manufacturers will follow Ford's lead. Demand projections clearly point to increased utilization of alternative transportation fuels in the 21st century. They need to seize this opportunity if they want to survive," Lotilla had earlier said.

Pending the issuance of the biofuels law, the DOE believed that the EO would play a significant role in encouraging the promotion and use of alternative transport fuels.

The government sees the widespread use of indigenous alternative fuels as a key element in its energy independence strategy, particularly with the current uncertainty in the international oil market.

Apart from helping ease the country's dependence on imported oil, Lotilla said the use of alternative fuels would also improve the air quality in the country, as well as promote investment and employment opportunities in the agricultural sector.

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region XIV, Cotabato City
Tel No. 064-421-2407 / Fax No.064-421-21-28
Nfa14orc@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority, Regional Office XIV, through the Grains Operating Fund intends to apply the sum of Five million five hundred thirty eight thousand seven hundred twenty-six pesos and 50/100 (Php 5, 538,726.50) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the Contract for the Procurement of Handing Services of estimated three million five hundred twenty one thousand five hundred twenty five (3,521,525) bags of grains in the following NFA owned and leased warehouses:

Lot No.	Location	Estimated Volume to to be Handled (in bags 50 kg)	Estimated ABC (In PhP)
1	GID Maganoy	323,146	P 484,719.00
2	R & B	119,120	178,680.00
3	RPA 1	448,778	673,167.00
4	RPA 2	106,070	159,105.00
5	RPA 3	170,784	256,176.00
6	RPA 4	81,582	122,373.00
7	Philtrade V	566,478	1,132,956.00
8	C I C	63,418	95,127.00
9	SPGC – GID	292,349	438,523.50
10	GID Marawi	424,150	636,225.00
11	Malabang	94,050	160,762.50
12	GID Basilan	618,000	927,000.00
13	GID Sulu	107,200	134,000.00
14	GID Tawi	106,400	159,600.00
	Total	3,521,525	P 5,558,414

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in the Republic Act 5183 (RA 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

PARTICULAR	DATE/TIME/VENUE
Distribution/Issuance of Bid Forms	January 23 to February 2, 2006 @ 5:00 PM / NFA XIV, ORC, Cotabato City
Deadline on submission of Letter of Intent	February 3-10, 2006 @ 3:00 PM / NFA, Region XIV, ORC Compound, Cotabato City
Pre-Bidding Conference	February 13, 2006 @ 9:00 AM / NFA RO XIV Conference Room, Cotabato City
Deadline for the submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Tender Forms	March 6, 2006 / @ 9:00 AM / NFA XIV Cotabato City
Opening of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Tender Forms	March 6, 2006 @ 9:10 AM / NFA XIV Conference Room, Cotabato City

A complete sets of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the BAC XIV Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One thousand five hundred pesos (Php 1,500.00) from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM beginning January 20, 2006. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the amount and form as enumerated under Section 27.2 of IRR-A. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Provincial Manager/BAC XIV Vice Chairman Mr. Kitem P. Kadatuan or Supervising Enforcement and Investigation Officer/BAC XIV Member Mr. Nelson P. Sañada.

The NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY REGIONAL OFFICE XIV
Asst Regional Director Ofelia M. Sero, ORC Complex, Cotabato City
(064) 421-24-07, Fax (064) 421-21-28 • Nfa14orc@yahoo.com

(Sgd.) OFELIA M. SERO
BAC Chairman

(PDI – January 21 & 28, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Municipality of Placer
Community-Based Resource Management Project
(CBRMP)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: January 14, 2006
Loan No. 4299-PH
IFB NO. SFF-IPB-02-2005

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (through the Department of Finance (DOF) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the financing of Community-Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for supply and installation of **Ice Plant and Machineries.**
2. The Municipality of Placer now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and Installation of **Ice Plant and Machineries.**
3. For the purpose of this bidding, eligible bidders shall be those who have experience in the supply and installation of Ice Plant and Machineries to remote areas in the Philippines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may purchase or inspect the bidding documents at or obtain further information from the Office of BAC Chairman, Municipal Hall, Placer, Surigao del Norte.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting **January 16, 2006-February 13, 2006** upon submission of letter of intent to the above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php7,500.00).
6. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Goods.
7. Bids must be delivered to the BAC Chairman, Municipality of Placer, on or before **2:00 p.m. on February 13, 2006** and must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php300,000.00) in the form of Bank Guarantee.
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend on **February 13, 2006; 2:00 p.m.** at BAC Chairman, Municipality of Placer.
9. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on **January 31, 2006; 2:00 p.m.**, at the address indicated in paragraph 8.

(Sgd.) **MRS. EMERITA P. ELEJAS**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Jan. 14 & 21, 2006)

DTI taps Internet cafés for name registration

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY has tapped Internet café operators to facilitate the registration of business names.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said the DTI was partnering with the Internet Café Associations of the Philippines—who have offered their facilities and workforce—with the success of a pilot project in Rizal.

Favila said the experience of DTI-Rizal in working with Internet café operators would be tried out in Metro Manila and then in other regions.

"We have trained representatives of 18 ICAP members operating (in the metropolis) on how to provide service on online reservation of business names," he said. "We would next train those doing business in other key urban areas nationwide."

Participating establishments include Netopia, Phoenix Internet Café, Green Sot Café, Fast Forward Internet Café, Warzone Internet Café, E-games, Chaiwinix, Teamnux, PC Lawust, PPN, 2525 Triple K Internet, 53M Computer Shop and IPVG.

"This is one way of promoting e-governance or making government service more accessible to the public and faster through the use of the Internet," Favila said.

Also, he said the cooperation with Internet café operators would be an opportunity to push for the use of the WeBNRS—the government program for electronic business name registration service—in applying for business names.

"WeBNRS cuts the processing time substantially because applicants would already be carrying with them pre-approved business names when they go to our registration sites," he said. "If the required documents are complete, applicants can get their business name certificates within 24 hours."

Earlier, the DTI announced that entrepreneurs in Metro Manila could now register their business names in Consumer Welfare Centers in SM Megamall, SM North Edsa and SM SouthMall.

Aside from listing business names, entrepreneurs could also amend, verify, cancel or make optional their registration in the CWCs.

However, transactions related to customs brokers license and service and repair shops accreditations would not be entertained in the malls as these must be processed in the DTI's regional center in Makati City.

The CWCs are part of efforts to cut the long lines in the DTI's Makati office, where a "deluge" of registrants troop to especially at the start of the year.

The National Capital Region alone account for up to 40 percent of the total number of registrations nationwide.

From January to October 2005, DTI NCR approved 78,484 of the total 252,208 business names registered nationwide.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Saturday, January 21, 2005

Sayaw. Drama. Iba.
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Sunday 9 PM
ABC
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hosted by Lucy Torres Gomez

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	[illegible]	[illegible]	11:30PM
ABC 5	Art is-Kool	KNN	Anime Ring Kaisho		PBA					Wow Maling Mali		Band item		ABCinema					
ABS-CBN 2	ETK				Nginig		Little Big Star		My Juan And Only		Quezon Avenue	Kamao		TV Patrol World		Sabado Movie Greats			
AXN		Rollerball				Fear Factor		WRC 2006: Rally XS	E Buzz	The 4400 (Season 2)		Sports Disaster IV		Las Vegas		The World's Sexiest Commercials		The World's Wildest Commercials	The World's Wildest Commercials
Cartoon Network	X-Men Evolution	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Xiaolin Showdown	Tom & Jerry Show		Codename: Kids Next Door		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Teen Titans	Samurai Jack	Hammerboy			Dexter's Laboratory	Crush Gear Nitro	The Gransazers	Superman The Animated Series	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Space Ghost Coast to Coast
Cinema One	Dreamboy				Pa-Siyam				My Movie				Kapulol Ng Isang Awit				TBA		
Cinemax				The Adventures Of Brisco County Jr.			National Security (5:45 PM)			Hudson Hawk (7:15 PM)				Fierce Creatures			The 51st State		
CNN	Diplomatic License	World News	World Business This Week	World News	International Correspondents	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	Next@CNN	World News	Design 360	World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Discovery Channel				Unsolved History		Power Zone				Zero Hour		The New Detectives		Crime Stories		True Horror		American Chopper	
Disney Channel	Recess	Totally Spies	Lizzie McGuire	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Buzz on Maggie		Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Phil Of The Future	Even Stevens	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN				Goals!	English Premier League Preview	Pool/ Snooker Mosconi Cup 2004		Bowls Embassy World Champ'ship Ind England				Sportscenter Asia		Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	NBA Game Spurs @ Heat				
ETC	Complete Savages	Committed	Good Morning Miami	Friends 10	Will & Grace 4	Saturday Night Live		The O.C. 2		Love Shack		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	Miracles Of The Child Jesus	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Knights Of St. Michael	Rosary With Mother Angelica	The Church And The Pope: Building Bridges	Catholic Compass		The World Over Encore		Fr. John Corapi		Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15 PM)	Sacraments Through The Ages	Life on The Rock Encore	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos/Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho		Imbestigador		Hokus Pocus			Showbiz Stripped			
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss? II	Who's The Boss? II	Hawking				Naughty Or Nice (5:30 PM)			Jane Doe: Now You See It Now You Don't				Gone But Not Forgotten					
HBO			Criminal			Outbreak				Congo (7:15 PM)				Honey			Rome Ep 10: Triumph		Nick Of Time
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Nations Pinoisaper	Good Take	Home Shopping Network		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Back To Back Pamyime Special				Bilag		Philippine Sabong Sports	Mundo		
JackTV	X-Men Evolution	Jiu	Batman	X-Play	Cinematech	Bottomline		Raw				Family Guy	Banzai	Mad TV		South Park	South Park	Drawn Together	Crank Yankers
Lifestyle Network	Living Space	HGTV Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Emeril Live		Iron Chef America		How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week	E! Extra Ultimate H'wood Blonds		Fashion Trance	
MTV Philippines	Hanging Out	MTV Hits	MTV Hits	MTV Presents				Homecoming	Punk'D	Wild N' Out	MTV Cribs	MTV Live		Chart Attack		Brand New	Massive	Jams	Rockola
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5	Radio MYX	Top Of The Pops	Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		The Astounding World		Malaysia Specials	Year Of Hamster	Wild Rio		Creature Feature		Wow!		The Astounding World		Amazon Claws		Big Bite Nite			
NBN				Corporate Bowlers League		Concert at the Park		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Talk To Harry		GSIS Member's Hour		Info Hour On NBN				Auto Focus	
Nickelodeon	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Unfabulous	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	Zoey 101	Avatar The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	Catscratch	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Dark Oracle	Zoey 101	Unfabulous	Girls In Love	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Four Eyes	The Wild Thornberrys	The Brothers Garcia
PGO			Oo Na, Sige Na				Musikalbigang Kinding				May Lamok Sa Loob Ng Kulambo				Kumukulong Dugo				Alguntok Al Cala
Qtv		3R	Kiddy Grade	Candies		Fam Jam		Fans Kita		Ayll Robot		Day-Off		Sabado Showdown				Groupee TV	
RPN 9		Open Line	Pinoy Sports Idol	Diyosang Langit	Kids TV	Barangay Bida		Isumbong mo kay Tulfo		Medical Investigations		CSI Miami		Saturday Night Playhouse				Money Talk	
SBN 21				Friends Again		Sony Bmg Filler		Sony Bmg Filler		JAI		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Shepardz Video		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports		Swiss Cup International Gymnastics					GMS Ep 54-2005	Coming With Everything: Pacquiao Morales I				NBA Jam	GMS Ep 55-2005	NBA Game Cavaliers @ Warriors					NBA Inside Stuff
Sports Plus				Pac 10 TBD				World Poker Tour Ep 14 Final				Ultimate Fighting Championship Special						Bob Hope Chrysler Classic Day 2	
Star Movies	The Alamo (2:45 PM)					Stranger (5:05 PM)				Spartan (7:10 PM)				Black Hawk Down					Sudden Death
Star World		The Collector (Series 3)		Miami Vice		Wild Card		John Doe		The Chronicle: News From The Edge		TNA Xplosion		Ghost Hunters (Series 2)		Enterprise		The Kumars At No 42	Less Than Perfect
Studio 23								Sports TV	Mr. Bean	Pinoy Big Brother		Gimme Gala (7:50 PM)	Jack & Bobby (8:40 PM)		Studio 23 Present				

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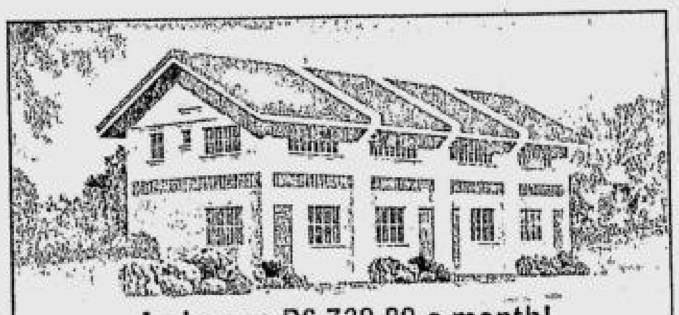

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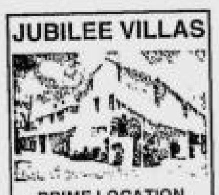

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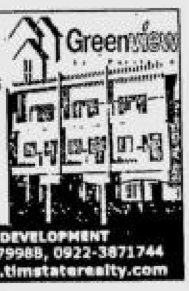

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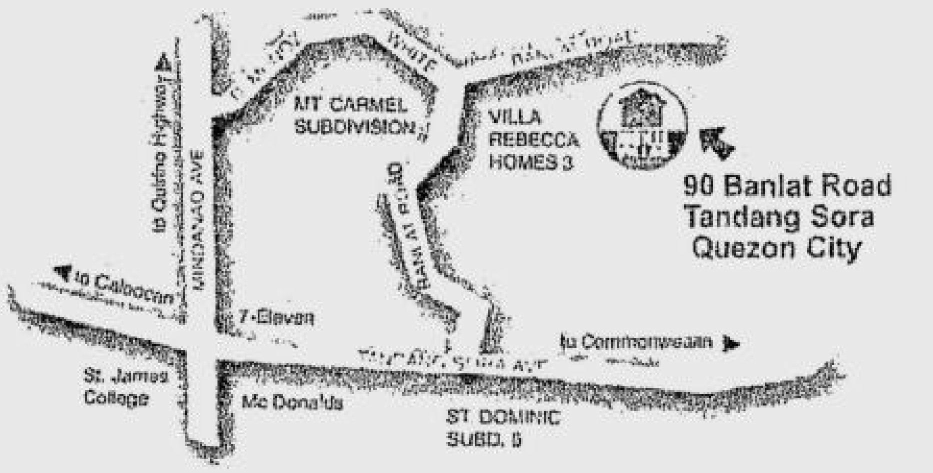

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that Alien Certificate with #E157599 on August 6, 1990 & Immigrant Certificate of Residence w/ #326867 of Maria Regina Chao Udasco h a s been reported lost. (PDI-Jan. 21, 28 & Feb. 4, 2006)

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C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc.
#7611 Caeg Bldg., dela Rosa St., Makati City; #602 JP Rizal St. Makati City; #15 Gen Santos Ave., Lower Bicutan Taguig; Real St. Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an Auction Sale on January 28, 2006 at 9:00 AM. Including all items pawned up to August 2005 V. Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer

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MANUEL ZACHARY ARANETA ESCUDERO

November 5, 1986 - January 19, 2006

Beloved son of **Manolet** and **Baba**; Loving Kuya of **Aaron**, **Daniel** and **Isabela**; treasured grandson of **Mama Mi** and **Mama T.**; cherished nephew, cousin, godson and friend. He will be sorely missed by his grieving family and many friends.

His remains lie in state at the Chapel of the Ascension, Villa Escudero, Tiaong, Quezon.

Interment at the Family mausoleum will follow the 10:00 a.m. Mass on January 24, 2006.

CARMEN "Mameng" FERRER ADEVOSO

of Parañaque, Rizal & Cincinnati, Ohio USA

widow of

Sec. Eleuterio "Col. Terry Magtanggol" Adevoso

Peacefully joined her husband and our Lord on January 20, 2006 at the age of 81.

Her children **Jerry & Mimi**; grandchildren **Joie & Randy Cañal, Jay & Michelle, Jenna, J-Mi & Joanna**; great grandchildren **Franco, Rio, Luna, Paolo & Javier**; brothers, sisters (especially **Nerissa & Sonny de Veyra** & family), nephews & nieces request prayers of thanks for her good and meaningful life.

Her remains will be brought to Manila from Cincinnati. Memorial services and interment details will be announced later.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

CESAR T. SALCEDO

of Pozzorubio, Pangasinan
and Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

passed away on 7 January 2006 in Minneapolis, Minnesota at age 71.

He was survived by his wife Dolly and daughter Yasmin, brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews.

He will be greatly missed.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka
PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN NG PAGSASAKA AT PANGINGISDA
(National Agricultural and Fishery Council)
Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon
Tel. No. 928-87-41 to 65 local 510

Tender No.: FY 2005 US FOOD FOR PROGRESS PROGRAM-06/01

January 19, 2006

INVITATION TO BID

The National Agricultural and Fishery Council (NAFC) hereby invites sealed bids for the sale of 9,300 metric tons (+/- 1%) at Seller's option of food wheat with estimated time of arrival at the Philippine port approximately March 10-20, 2006 under the US Food for Progress Program.

Bid documents shall be available for issuance starting January 23, 2006 from NAFC BAC Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable fee amounting to One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

For purposes of clarification, a pre-bid conference will be held on January 27, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the Apacible Conference Room, Apacible Hall, DA Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Fully completed sealed bids should be submitted not later than 2:00 p.m. on January 31, 2006. Bids received after the scheduled time will not be accepted/entertained and will be returned unopened.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Peachy Agustin at Tel. Nos. 929-82-34 and 920-39-92.

(Sgd.) **CARLITO P. FERNANDEZ**
Deputy Executive Director

(PDI – January 21 & 22, 2006)

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Luzon Regional Office
Cabanatuan City

January 19, 2006
TO : ALL CONCERNED BIDDERS

ANNOUNCEMENT

(Re-Bidding of Grains Handling Services in NFA-Region III)

Please be informed that the scheduled pre-bidding conference for Grains Handling Services in NFA-Region III is hereby moved earlier from February 3, 2006 to February 2, 2006 at the same time and venue. February 3, 2006 is being declared a holiday in view of the Cabanatuan City Day's celebration.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN J. RESIDE**
Asst. Regional Director
RBAC Chairman

(PDI – January 21, 2006)

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
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   - ➢ Submit a research proposal
   - ➢ Certificate of Fellowship

III. **Adult Pulmonary Medicine***
   - ➢ PCP Diplomate

* ***Deadline for submission of application is on February 27, 2006***
* ***Academic Year 2006 starts on April 1, 2006***

IV. **CV Anesthesiology Division****
   - ➢ 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)

V. **Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Division****
   - ➢ 4 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS (Board eligible)

VI. **Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine****
   - ➢ PCP Diplomate

** ***Deadline for submission of application is on February 17, 2006***
** ***Academic Year 2006 starts on April 1, 2006***

VII. **Pediatric Cardiology**
   - ➢ 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
   - ➢ at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics by the PPS

You can submit your application as soon as possible.

General Requirements:
1. Medical Diploma
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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 000-784-336-000

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) through its Bidding and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of:

CONTRACT FOR JANITORIAL SERVICES
C.Y. 2006-2007
Approved Budget for the Contract – Php 2,300,000.00

Schedule of Bidding Activities

Issuance of Eligibility & Bidding Documents	January 24 – February 7, 2006 7:30 AM – 4:30 P.M. SRA Bidding Secretariat 3rd Floor Annex Building Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City for a non-refundable fee of Php 2,000.00
Pre-Bid Conference	February 14, 2006, 9:00 A.M. Training Room, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Submission & Opening of Eligibility & Bid Envelopes	February 28, 2006 9:00 A.M. Training Room, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

For particulars, please contact:
The Bidding Secretariat – Telephone No. 929-68-37

All particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contracts shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable government rules and regulations.

The SRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bids.

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein or accept any bid(s) or offer(s) which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) JAMES C. LEDESMA
Administrator

(PDI – January 21 & 28, 2006)

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2005 BEST CONTRACTOR. N.S. Manglo Construction and Development Corporation was presented the Award of Excellence for Outstanding Achievement once again by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The company has won this honor for two years now, as it was also adjudged best contractor for the year 2004. Photo shows Engr. Rolando C. Ambal (left), N. S. Manglo's Construction Division Manager receiving the commendation from Archt. Alfred Tumbokon (center), Project Manager, and Engr. Arwin Manalo (right), Area Project Management Manager of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The ceremony was held during the PMD Annual Meeting at Las Piñas Stake Center in Las Piñas City last December 10, 2005.

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

INVITATION TO BID

Being offered through public bidding, as one whole lot and on an "as-is, "where-is" basis, are the buildings, machinery and equipment formerly belonging to Unisol Industries and Manufacturing Corporation (UNISOL), located at Barrio Makiling, Calamba, Laguna, for a total Floor Price of P10,431,670.00.

Interested parties may request for the duly authenticated copies of the bidding documents for a nominal fee of PhP500.00 from the Marketing Department, 5th Floor, PMO Building, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. The deadline for interested parties to avail of the bid documents shall be on 31 January 2006, 5:00 p.m.

All offers shall be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of other bidders on **7 February 2006, at 3:00 p.m.** at the PMO Conference Room, 6th Floor, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

For more information, please call Mr. John DF. Baldemor of the PMO Marketing Department at 817-6331 / 817-8762.

(PDI–January 20, 21, 22, 2006)

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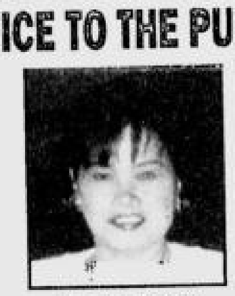

LYDIA CHAN

Notice is hereby given that a warrant of arrest in violation of B.P. 22 has been issued against **LYDIA CHAN**, whose picture appears above, in Criminal Case No. 136512 by the Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 36, Quezon City. Any report to her whereabouts can contact MTC Branch 36.

(PDI–Jan. 21, 2006)

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Local guidelines on abnormal cholesterol levels released

By Charles E. Buban

A SET OF GUIDELINES on the management of dyslipidemia (abnormal cholesterol level) that is tailor-made for Filipino patients was recently released to doctors by the Philippine Heart Association.

"The guidelines, which present evidence-based recommendations for the management of dyslipidemia, are specifically designed to suit local clinical practice by taking into consideration the country's demographic, socioeconomic and health situation," said Dr. Eugenio Reyes, chair of the PHA Council on Preventive Cardiology.

The development of the Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Dyslipidemia in the Philippines started in 1996. Medical literature worldwide were appraised for validity and applicability to the Philippine situation.

Reyes said applicability appraisal was important because a lot of large-scale trials were conducted on Western populations that significantly differ from that of the Philippines. This may affect the manner by which the results of these trials are interpreted and applied in the local setting.

No conflict of interest

The PHA council collaborated with several organizations and received technical and financial support from the Philippine-based International Clinical Epidemiology Network (Inclen) to develop the guidelines, with the latter spending P1.2 million.

To ensure objectivity and impartiality, members of the technical research committee and the panelists disclosed their affiliations and, in some cases, divested themselves of assets to avoid actual, potential or perceived conflict of interests.

Private organizations were allowed to provide financial support only for the publication of the guidelines.

Health inequities

Dr. Mariano Lopez, PHA president, said the project aimed to develop valid and applicable guidelines for Filipinos, "with special consideration for the country's existing health inequities."

Lopez said foreign guidelines may not be appropriate for the local setting because prevention strategies may differ among countries due to demographic, epidemiological, cultural, social, medical and economic reasons.

Limited health resources

The new guidelines show that the Philippines has very limited health resources:

- Four out of every five Filipinos live below the poverty line.
- The average Filipino spent only around P780 for medicines in 2003, comprising 1.9 percent of total family expenditure. This makes the Philippines' per capita pharmaceutical consumption one of the lowest in Asia.
- The country's national health expenditure has been steadily decreasing, from 3.4 percent in 1997 to just 3.1 percent in 2001. This has been happening even as the World Health Organization has recommended that governments spend at least 5 percent of their gross national product on health.

Lopez said that because of these realities, patient care based on foreign guidelines may be too expensive for a lot of Filipinos.

Lifestyle intervention

Improving the management of dyslipidemia has the potential of reducing the impact cholesterol plays in the development of heart disease and stroke.

According to Reyes, the guidelines recommend lifestyle intervention for people with elevated low-density lipoprotein (bad cholesterol) and low levels of high-density lipoprotein (good cholesterol). Emphasis is placed on smoking cessation, weight management, regular physical activity, and adequate blood pressure monitoring and control as the initial therapy. These preventive measures are more easily implemented regardless of the financial capability of the patient.

In patients with no established hardening of the arteries or atherosclerosis but with multiple risk factors and total cholesterol level equal to or greater than 190 mg/dL or LDL equal to or greater than 100 mg/dL, the use of drugs, particularly statins, is an option.

Among the risk factors are hypertension, familial hypercholesterolemia, left ventricular hypertrophy, smoking, family history of premature coronary artery disease, sex (male), age (over 55 years), proteinuria, albuminuria and body mass index equal to or greater than 25.

For diabetics and those with atherosclerosis and whose total cholesterol level is equal to or greater than 190 mg/dL or whose LDL is equal to or greater than 100 mg/dL, the guidelines recommend statins.

The guidelines state that cost should be considered for the underprivileged and suggests that for those who choose to defer screening, statin therapy may be given as an option after proper patient education.

Teaching math

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

HOW CAN TEACHERS make math enjoyable? Leonides E. Bulalayao, one of my graduate students who teaches math to fourth year students at the Nueva Ecija High School, describes her efforts:

Math Trail. Once a year I prepare the math trail for fourth year high school students when the topic involves angles of elevation and depression. Each group of students should solve three problems involving heights: of the school building, of the flagpole in front of the building, and of the gymnasium.

Before the students set out on the trail, I ask them questions as motivation: Who wants to become an engineer or an architect? A good engineer can determine the height and the cost of a building by inspection and measurements. How about determining the height of the flagpole without actually climbing up to measure it?

The students are very excited and after the activity some of them go on to take up engineering courses in college.

Singing concepts

Songs. I also use songs to explain confusing concepts, such as division of and by zero. Is the answer zero or undefined? I composed a one-liner sung to the tune of "Paa Tuhod," with the lyrics "*Taas* zero, *baba* undefined." If zero is in the numerator and is being divided by any other number, the answer is zero. If zero is in the denominator and divides any other number, the result is undefined.

Once when I was teaching vertical angles, I raised my two hands, crossed them, and sung "Di Ko Kayang Tanggapin" by April Boy Regino. The concept of vertical angles then became instilled in their minds, and they started using the concept to solve problems. After the test, I heard some students tell their classmates, "*Di ko kayang tanggapin iyon, di kulang ng* given."

I also introduced a song to emphasize addition and subtraction of integers. I would feel bad when my students evaluated algebraic expressions. We would be at the last step, for instance, in getting -23 +15, and they would have different answers: -23, 23, -8, 8. So I taught them this song (to the tune of "Jolly Old Group," a scouting song):

Positive plus positive, add positive.
Negative plus negative, add negative.
Positive plus negative, subtract and get the sign
Of the greater in absolute value.

Physical, mental presence

Discipline. I always make sure that my students are physically and mentally present. When I enter the classroom, I tap the table four times with my right hand and another four times with the left, signaling the students to stand. After the prayer my first line is "Game *na ba kayo?*" The students should answer, "Game *na* game *na.*" They know they are not allowed to chat with others for the duration of the class.

Shortcuts. Shortcuts help students improve their performance, but I introduce them only after discussing the procedures and ensuring that they understand basic concepts. Shortcuts include the lattice method for multiplying polynomials, especially those of degree 4, synthetic division for dividing polynomials with quadratic divisors, and dealing with conic sections in various forms. Students become more enthusiastic if they see that they can solve problems in alternative ways.

Technology. As IT coordinator, I arrange my students' schedules in the computer laboratory. With the use of MS Excel, they can easily visualize the graphs of different functions and investigate the effects of different variables. When I discussed zeros of quadratic functions, I prepared technology-based worksheets and I was happy with the positive results. Through computers, the students graphed the function and discovered the concepts easily by answering guide questions.

Concerned teacher

Of course the best teaching comes from the heart. Another graduate student, Lea G. Celzo of Dewey National High School reflects, "I have been teaching in an isolated island in Pangasinan for six years. I teach math and other subjects from first to fourth year. The island is small but populated, 20 kilometers away from the town proper and accessible by boat during high tide. Because of its distance from the mainland, my students' attitudes and moral values may be different. They know each other very well for they are neighbors. They talk too much, even revealing family secrets and parental affairs.

"Because of their familiarity with each other, at times they show disrespect. It seems that for them, education cannot change their present situation. They believe that they are poor and hopeless, and will remain fisherpeople for the rest of their lives.

"I have a deep concern for them. I practice diligence in dealing with them, show a personal touch and give them fair treatment. With the help of God, I pray that I can open their eyes and that they will see a bright future."

Concerns about RP medical tourism

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS RECENTLY launched a campaign to promote health, holidays, or medical tourism in the Philippines. Countries like Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and India are earning billions of dollars annually from this growing industry and we hope to get a sizeable piece of the pie.

The requisite for medical tourism is the availability of world-class, but cost-effective, private medical hospitals or clinics, as well as leisure and relaxation facilities aimed at rejuvenating a person mentally, physically and emotionally.

There is no doubt the Philippines fulfills the requirements of medical tourism. Add to that the world-famous Philippine charm and hospitality, and it looks like we're well in place to be the market leader in a few years.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said government agencies and private clinics and hospitals would strive to make the Philippines the "new hub of wellness and medical care in Asia."

Sure, we would all be proud to be the health mecca in the Asia-Pacific region in five years, but something about the DOH launch of medical tourism leaves a bad taste in the mouth.

What is DOH mandate?

Duque's good intentions in helping in this revenue-earning undertaking is appreciated. Perhaps it's also possible that medical tourism will reverse the prevailing doctors-shifting-to-nursing phenomenon and stem the current exodus of health workers to foreign lands.

Duque said medical tourism could generate enough revenue for the country to improve overall health care for the poor and make available expensive advanced medical equipment.

These intentions are well taken but medical tourism, as its name implies, should still be essentially a Department of Tourism undertaking.

The DOT should be at the helm of this campaign. That's what it is mandated to do: boost tourism and earn revenue for the government.

The DOH should just be one of the low-key coordinating agencies, and I hope our DOH officials will refrain from making more rah-rah speeches on medical tourism.

The mandate of the DOH is to ensure that every Filipino is provided adequate health care, not help boost tourism. The DOH is a service-rendering agency, not a profit-generating center of the government.

The concern of the Alliance of Health Workers is valid. The DOH is launching a program that would offer world-class health care to foreigners while millions of Filipinos have to content themselves with substandard treatment and obsolete equipment in government hospitals and clinics. This might convey the wrong message that the government cares more for dollar-paying foreigners and neglects the healthcare needs of poor Filipinos.

This has been the experience in other developing countries where medical tourism is already a major industry. Despite all lofty intentions, the profitable, private-sector medical tourism is drawing medical resources and personnel away from the local population.

Faith healers, quacks

In promoting medical tourism in the Philippines, the government indirectly will also be promoting the *hilot* and even faith healers and quack surgeons. In fact, these were the initial beneficiaries of medical tourism back in the '70s and '80s and quite a number of terminally ill foreign patients still come here to seek "treatment" from faith healers.

So if the DOH acts as a spearheading agency for medical tourism, how will it reconcile its promotion of mainstream word-class medicine and surgical interventions alongside faith healing and the other unproven, unscientific health practices?

The DOT can understandably be silent on issues like this, but the DOH will have to make an unequivocal stand.

Eye of the beholder

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

SAY FOUR PEOPLE—TWO MALES and two females—are walking down a street and they see Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie heading in their direction. The odds are good that the four people are likely to look at the expectant couple longer than they would look at anyone else in the immediate area, not just because of who they are, but also because they are attractive.

Now take the same scenario but say that one male and one female were heterosexual (identified as HeM and HeW in the study being discussed here) and the other male and female were homosexual (HoM and HoW). In this case, the HeM and the HoW would look longer at Angelina, while the HeW and the HoM would be eyeing Brad.

In the Jan. 10 issue of the journal Current Biology, Alumit Ishai, assistant professor at the Institute of Neuroradiology in the University of Zurich, and graduate student Felicitas Kranz demonstrate this outcome by measuring activity in certain sections of the brain.

The research focuses on using functional magnetic resonance imaging, or fMRI, to characterize the brain structures involved in visual perception, imagery and memory. For this study, the researchers set out to determine what sections of the brain are activated when a person sees a face. More specifically, they wondered how a person's gender and sexual orientation would affect his/her perception of the face.

Rating faces

Forty people—10 HeM, 10 HoM, 10 HeW and 10 HoW—participated in the study. All were in their 20s and their sexual orientations were self-identified in a questionnaire given at the start of the experiments.

In the first experiment, each volunteer was asked to look at 100 male faces and 100 female faces. As each face appeared on the screen before them, the participants were asked to identify them as "attractive," "unattractive," and "neutral."

Of the female faces shown, approximately 28 percent were considered attractive, 27 percent were considered unattractive, and 45 percent were considered neutral. Of the male faces, 20 percent were considered attractive, 35 percent were considered unattractive, and 45 percent were considered neutral.

Interestingly, the researchers do not mention whether all the participants agreed on their perceptions of any faces. They do agree that in all participants, when attractive faces were identified, the amygdala and other sections of the brain associated with face selection were activated.

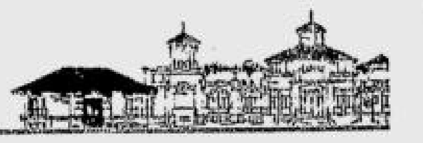
Possible partners

In the second experiment, the researchers showed each participant 60 male and 60 female faces. Some of the faces shown were familiar to the viewers; some depicted various emotions. Again the participants labeled each face as attractive, unattractive, or neutral.

This time, the researchers took the gender and sexual orientation of each participant into account when reviewing their answers. They found that the HeW and HoM responded more to male faces while the HeM and HoW responded more to female faces. They also found that the thalamus and the orbitofrontal cortex (OFC), which is part of the brain's reward pathway, were activated.

The researchers say that the OFC's activation makes sense since the brain would be considering the faces being processed in terms of possible mates. The brain, they say, isn't just thinking about mating in terms of ensuring the next generation's existence, but could just be considering possible sexual partners.

In retrospect, using Brad and Angelina as examples of attractive faces in the scenarios above might not have been appropriate if only because there seems to be a fair number of straight women who've said they were attracted to Jolie, which could skew the results. It is clear, however, that both gender and sexual orientation play a role in activating certain sections of the brain when considering possible mates.



Developers, retirement body to fast-track local industry

By Charles E. Buban

FAST-TRACKING THE RETIREMENT industry and developing more retirement communities will be the main issues of discussion in the forthcoming conference between the country's top developers and officers of the Philippine Retirement Authority, the government agency mandated to attract foreign nationals and former Filipino citizens to invest, reside and eventually retire in the Philippines.

Newly appointed PRA chair Edgardo Aglipay is confident that the Jan. 31 meeting with the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association will bear specific programs and activities that will further promote the industry as well as hear the sentiments of the developers.

"The contribution of the private sector, particularly the developers, is vital in the promotion of the country's retirement industry, which will not only help strengthen local employment but also help generate foreign investments," he said.

Meeting crucial

SHDA committee on retirement program chair Bienvenido Uy believes the meeting is crucial as the country needs to be more aggressive considering that other neighboring countries such as Malaysia and Thailand are already reaping benefits for successfully attracting considerable number foreign retirees in the past several years.

Uy underscored the huge market of foreign retirees saying the increasing percentage of aging population has been observed in developed countries like the Unites States, Japan, Germany, Italy, France and United Kingdom.

He said retirees who are 65 years old and above account for an average of 15 percent of the total population in these countries.

"One example is Japan that has some 20.5 million individuals who are 65 years old and above. If we succeeded by getting just one-tenth of one percent share of the total Japanese retirees who will have to bring a minimum of $50,000 (P2.6 million) to get a Special Resident Retirees Visa, this will already translate to some $1 billion (P52.8 billion), which will have very positive impact to our economy," Uy revealed.

Tapping Japanese market

Even Aglipay is receptive to the idea of tapping the Japanese market and establishing cluster areas with complete services and facilities for foreign retirees.

"Developers can tie up and undertake memorandums of agreement with individuals and corporations engaged in services such as health and allied medical field, entertainment and recreation, housing and community facilities and similar services for the retirement industry," said Aglipay who added the scheme will provide for the optimum utilization of private sector investments.

SHDA national president Willie Uy expects that the key factors namely, security of the retirees will also be addressed by the new PRA chair.

"Security is a major concern for our retirees but with Aglipay (who is a former chief of the Philippine National Police) and the PNP's improving network and linkage all over the country, I believe this issue could be addressed more effectively now," says Uy.

Tourist arrival up

And with improving environment for retirees, Uy expects a further increase in tourist arrival.

In fact, the Department of Tourism reported a growth of 13.6 percent just for the first 10 months of 2005 and PRA general manager Dr. Nelson Collantes reasoned out this may be because of the retirees as shown by the enrollees in PRA's program whose figure resulted in the best semestral performance ever in the agency's 20-year existence.

Comparing the semiannual fiscal year figures of 2005 to 2004, revenue increased by almost 13 percent resulting in a 40 percent increase in net flow before taxes and foreign currency adjustments.

This jump in revenue performance can be attributed to the increased retiree-visa enrolment, the special nonimmigrant visa that PRA issue (called the Special Resident Retiree's Visa), to those who avail of the agency's retirement program.

The SRRV entitles the holder to multiple-entry privileges with the option to reside permanently in the country.

"It is 'lifestyle' visa for those who enjoy perks and privileges, or a 'hassle-free' visa for the frequent business traveler, or a 'retirement' visa for the elderly who need special care for their special needs," Collantes explained.

PRA also assists its members in procuring documents like driver's license or permits from local government units. It also forms partnerships with hotels, resorts, restaurants and retirement facilities, which offer value-added services and benefits.

Accredited facility

One example of PRA's accredited facilities is the Taal View Heights Country Homes owned by Ledesco Development Corp.

Taal View Heights is a 30-hectare nature-inspired resident-tial community nestled along the rolling hillsides of Tagaytay City.

"We think that this type of partnership (with PRA) is an integral solution in bringing foreigners and former Filipinos back from abroad. They want to come because of the program. Then, we at Taal View Heights provide an ideal environment for retirees," said Ledesco EVP RJ Ledesma.

Collantes cited Tagaytay City as one of the hotspots for foreigners coming into the country because of its cool weather and excellent vista.

In fact, Ledesma revealed this has been his main selling point when going abroad to invite clients to invest in Tagaytay-Batangas area or to promote the PRA program to interested retirees.

Ayala goes 'masa' with 5-tower condo beside SM mall

By Tessa R. Salazar

AYALA LAND INC. SUBSIDIARY AVIDA LAND Corp (formerly Laguna Properties Holdings Inc.) continues to tap the increasing demand for the mid-income segment with a five-tower condominium beside an icon for mass-based commercialism.

The Avida Towers San Lazaro, which will sit inside the 16-hectare San Lazaro property in Manila, features high ceilings and panoramic views. Residents would have a view of Manila Bay, the Antipolo mountains or the Makati skyline, depending on the location of the unit.

The construction cost for each tower is estimated at P270 million to P300 million. Units in the first tower is scheduled to be delivered in 2009.

AVIDA Towers San Lazaro features high ceilings and panoramic views.

The property management of Avida Towers will be handled by Ayala Property Management Corp, which promises to offer 24-hour security, adequate power and water supply and well-managed facilities.

The Manila Jockey Club's horseracing facilities, a Manila landmark for decades, is now located at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

Joint venture

Avida Towers San Lazaro is a joint venture between Avida Land and the Manila Jockey Club Inc., a gaming company which has diversified into real estate projects.

The towers are marketed for faculty and medical students of nearby universities, as well as professionals, entrepreneurs and young families working and residing in Manila and Makati. They also target overseas Filipino workers.

Prices

A 22.4-square-meter studio unit ranges from P998,000 to P1,165,000; a 39.37-sq-m one-bedroom unit ranges from P1,754,000 to P2,100,000; and a 45.24-sq-m two-bedroom unit ranges from P2,015,603 to P2,413,473.

A 39.5-sq-m one bedroom with loft ranges from P2,130,513 to P2,190,513; and a 58.53-sq-m two bedroom with loft ranges from P3,290,213 to P3,390,213.

Avida Land said the prices are net of VAT and other charges.

Jaime Ayala said LPHI had outgrown its name, with over 27 projects in 13 locations across Luzon.

And since OFWs accounted for 25 percent of the sales of LPHI, Ayala said Avida Land will also put up sales offices in Rome, Milan and Dubai.

Avida president Dinna Bayangos explained that Avida—a contraction of "Ave" (to celebrate) and "vida" (life)—better reflects the position of the company.

LPHI was originally established in 1991 to provide homes to workers and junior executives employed in the Ayala-developed portions of Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

2 to 3 projects a year

Avida will launch two to three projects a year in new locations nationwide. It offers pieces of property ranging from P500,000 to P2.5 million.

Ayala said during the Jan. 12 Avida Towers launch, before the company settled to its new home in Makati, its offices had its roots in Escolta, Manila.

"It is fitting that we are celebrating the birth of Avida Land here in Manila because the Ayala Group of Companies traces its roots back to the city," Ayala said.

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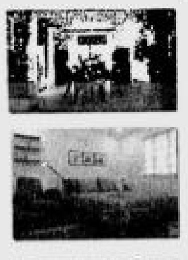

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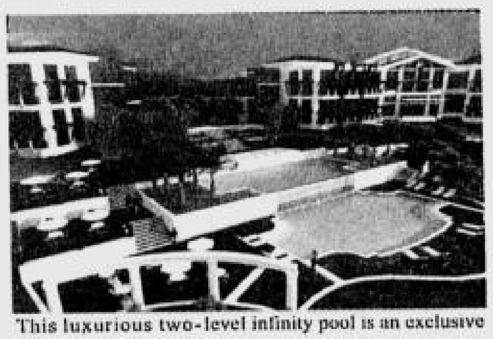

This luxurious two-level infinity pool is an exclusive resort amenity for Golf View Terraces residents.

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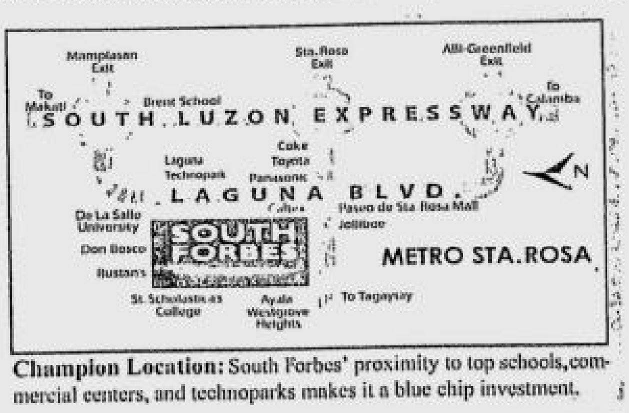

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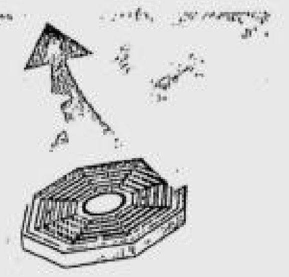
Feng shui consultant: earth element good for property



By Tessa R. Salazar

WITH FIRE AS THE "YEAR heavenly stem" and earth (dog) as the "year branch," Roberto Tseng Vicente, practitioner of feng shui-inspired QiPi, said fire would intensify the earth element this 2006.

And the earth element, he said, is good for pieces of property.

"The economic demand will be great for land and housing and other types of property. [This year] will be good for investment. People just need to be sure of good locations for their investment," said Vicente.

He said that it would be wise for families who are planning to buy a house to get a feng shui consultant.

Real estate boom

He added that there will generally be a boom in the real estate sector this year. Manila and the northern part of the Philippines would be a good investment area.

Asked about his advice for developers, architects and brokers, he replied that for business harmony and success, they should always consider traditional feng shui principles in their designs.

"Observe good day selections in starting a project or an activity. Building must be oriented to receive active energies for success," he added.

Vicente said that building roads and entry points must be capable of bringing in active energies. Shape and design must be observed to follow traditional feng shui to benefit the community, the business and its occupants.

Asked if the political climate this year would hinder the real estate business, Vicente observed international investors always considered political stability before making economic investments.

Political climate

"It is about time for our country to reflect and see how our attitudes as Filipinos will change the course of this country. Let us learn from our neighboring countries and their people."

He added that it would be better to do business in the northern part of the Philippines, which includes Manila, compared to the south.

Vicente also said the US dollar would become stronger compared to the Euro. Southeast Asia will be visited with ill energies, saying people here should "expect epidemics such as the bird flu to intensify."

QiPi is an aspect of feng shui that deals more on the study and application of environmental energies. US-based Vicente introduced himself recently as a member of a group called Alliance Feng Shui that operates in countries such as the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, France, New Zealand, Taiwan, Singapore and the Philippines.

Vicente said he has a large group deployed around the world to share the practice of QiPi to help anyone who considers it necessary. Most of his group's clients are corporate in nature.

Good locations

He said that his group also recommends good locations for offices of heads of states so a leader could be "guided" in decision-making. Aside from helping plan cities and states, he said that there are some countries where his group decides where to put city halls, finance institutions and even entry points to the cities.

He added that if the project is in an existing development, his group would try to look into the source of energy and the environment surrounding the cities.

Vicente declined to reveal his group's project cities and other property developments, saying his group had signed no-disclosure contracts with clients.

Boracay: Paradise forever

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

MY FIRST VISIT TO Boracay was 20 years ago. The island was pristine. The shoreline was perfect and the mood was tranquil. There were no electricity and tap water. It was the ideal, quiet get-away. It was Paradise Found.

Now, roll in a few decades and loads of commercialization, it has become greatly different. There are over 300 resorts, hundreds of restaurants, cafés, boutiques, spas and other business establishments vying for island space and tourist attention. And if you ask me when I would rather go... I'd say now. It's infinitely more convenient, very comfortable, and way more exciting!

However, 10 to 20 years down the road, if it continues to grow this way, without proper control and restrictions, it may all go to waste. Paradise Lost?

Saving the island

It is not just the local government, but the people themselves, who should organize to protect the area where their livelihood and delight come from. Some of the effects of commercialization are irreversible, but at this point, the wrong could still be made right. For one, it would be good for the Boracay public to have another Bayani Fernando in the area, to clean up the island from signs and obstructions along the beach front.

If we are really serious about saving the island, we could follow the examples set in Carmel by the Sea, a coastal town in California, where Clint Eastwood used to be mayor. They restricted the kind of shop signs used for commercial establishments. Plastic back lit signs were disallowed. This gave opportunity for more creative signage with their own individuality. It really is not about restricting but leveling the playing field in order to create more and better options. Alternative materials for signs include wood, stone, metal and plaster. Those "named" establishments with "standard" signs made from "standard" materials should not be allowed to pull weight and mar the whole effect.

If they really want to do business in the area, they can and should by all means adjust to the requirements of their host-island. This has been done in Vigan and Rome where McDonalds stores have adjusted their signages to conform to local regulations. If this basic matter is not controlled now, we may get to the point where stores will compete over which sign is the brightest and biggest, turning the ambiance from quaint to loud. Once restricted, all shops are on equal footing and compete through creativity and not by size or wattage.

Ecological balance

Another good example of area restrictions is Lake Tahoe in Nevada, where the use of land and its proper zoning are properly enforced. Land use, building sizes, and capacity are restricted to ensure ecological balance.

In Boracay, the big business players are now coming in. It is the right time to enforce such rules. The local government has been studying the upgrade of utilities in the area. Power and water supply have been established, although some outages still occur during peak season. However, the sewerage and waste management system cannot cope with the existing development. The red warning line has been exceeded and alarm bells must be sounding off. Sewerage treatment plants (STP) must be put in place or upgraded to service the existing small resorts.

The current environmental law requiring new developments to have their own STPs must be enforced and monitored. The maintenance of ecological balance directly depends on this. Already the previous disinterest in proper sewerage disposal has come to haunt the island through the *ecoli* scare, the dirty open canals, the profusion of seaweed and debris on the shore. More than anything else, this concern must be addressed immediately!

Interesting designs

There are a lot of interesting architectural designs on the island. Unfortunately, I have yet to see one that has a genuine Filipino character. As architect Bobby Mañoza would put it, "which makes one wonder if there really is one." I have yet to see Ivatan-style houses or well-designed *bahay kubos*. It would attract more tourists, you know.

Today, I can see Boracay facing some of the initial mistakes Bali and Phuket did, such as the rapid commercialization and problems in waste management. But, those resort islands can afford to make those mistakes because those are big islands. They have other areas where they can atone for their ecological sins.

Boracay, however, is less than one percent the size of Bali. We cannot afford to wait and do nothing and allow one of the best beaches in the world to go to waste. We have our little bit of paradise right here. Let us work to keep it a paradise, a Paradise Forever.

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3. Condo/Unit 3B Washington Tower Asiaworld, Tambo (w/ parking lot) Under lease*	FA - 323.69	8,092,250
4. Condo/Unit 9B Washington Tower Asiaworld, Tambo (w/parking lot) Under lease*	FA - 333.2	8,996,400
5. Condo/Unit 9C Washington Tower Asiaworld, Tambo (w/parking lot) Under lease*	FA - 347.67	9,387,000
6. Unit 502 Pacific Coast Plaza Coastal Road (with 1 parking slot)	FA -172.69	2,500,000
7. Unit 503 Pacific Coast Plaza Coastal Road (with 1 parking slot)	FA - 164.62	2,500,000
8. Townhouse/L 1 & 2, B2 Action Lane cor Banner St. cor Stet St., 4th Estate Subd., Brgy San Dionisio Under lease*	LA - 705 FA - 914.62	8,500,000
9. Townhouse/No.25 MJS Ave. & LPL Ave., Levitown Subd., La Huerta	LA - 801 FA - 182.7	6,114,240
MAKATI		
10. Unit 512/Makati Prime Citadel P. Burgos	FA - 43	1,505,000
KALOOKAN		
11. Lot 8, Block 2, Road Lot 2, Perpetual Subdivision, Bagumbong	LA - 240	312,000
LAGUNA		
12. Lot/Pamplona St. Bo. Bucal Lecheria Calamba	LA - 34,750	41,700,000
13. Lot 29-B, Block 4, Road Lot 2 cor Road Lot 4 Monte Cecilia Subd. Bo. Diezmo, Cabuyao	LA - 1,356	2,034,000
BULACAN		
14. Townhouse/L 2, B 7, Richmond Vill. Brgy Bahay Pare, Meycauayan	LA - 252 FA - 283.5	2,500,000
CAVITE		
15. Townhouse/Lot 25, Blk 30 Tangile St. Greenbreeze 1 Subd., Bo. Lancaan Dasmariñas	LA - 514 FA - 297	1,500,000
16. Townhouse/Lot 6,7 & 8, Blk B No. 10 Progressive Vill 7 Subd. San Nicolas, Bacoor	LA - 740 FA - 352.10	3,500,000
COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS, BAYUGO, ANTIPOLO CITY		
17. Lot 16, Block 5, Pearwood Street	LA - 367	1,284,500
18. Lot 30, Block 7, Cottonwood Drive	LA - 366	1,281,000
19. Lot 2, Block 1, Foliage Hills	LA - 240	840,000
20. Lot 3, Block 1, Foliage Hills	LA - 240	840,000
21. Lot 4, Block 1, Foliage Hills	LA - 240	840,000
22. Lot 8, Block 3, Foliage Hills	LA - 317	1,109,500

■ COMMERCIAL

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	Area	Min Bid
MAKATI		
23. Condo/Unit 7A ACT Tower, Sen Gil Puyat Ave & H.V. de la Costa St. w/ 2 parking slots	FA - 325.2	10,406,400
24. Condo/Unit 8A ACT Tower, Sen Gil Puyat Ave & H.V. de la Costa St. w/ 2 parking slots	FA - 325.2	10,406,400
25. Condo/Unit 1, 7th Floor, BDO Plaza Paseo de Roxas	FA - 384	13,440,000
26. Condo/Unit 2, 7th Floor, BDO Plaza Paseo de Roxas	FA - 339	11,865,000
27. Condo/Unit 1, 17th Floor, BDO Plaza Paseo de Roxas	FA - 373	13,055,000
28. Condo/Unit 1, 19th Floor, BDO Plaza Paseo de Roxas	FA - 373	13,055,000
29. Condo/Unit 1, 20th Floor, BDO Plaza Paseo de Roxas	FA - 373	13,055,000
30. Condo/Unit 2, 20th Floor, BDO Plaza Paseo de Roxas	FA - 367	12,845,000
31. Condo/Unit 3B ACT Tower, Sen Gil Puyat Ave & H.V. de la Costa St. w/ 2 parking slots. Under lease*	FA - 280.53	8,415,900
CAVITE		
32. Agrifarm/Rwlnd, Bo. Toclong, Kawit (no right of way)	LA - 18,457	7,382,800
PASIG		
33. Condo/Unit 1506, 15F The Centerpoint Garnet cor J. Vargas Streets Ortigas Center (w/ parking slot) Under lease*	FA - 170	5,740,000
34. Condo/Unit C, 9F Strata 2000 Condo Emerald & Garnet Sts. Ortigas Center Under lease*	FA - 250	6,500,000
PASAY CITY		
35. San Rafael, Roxas Boulevard	LA - 3,020	108,720,000
ANTIPOLO		
36. Lots 2-i-1 & 2-J Marcos Highway Bo. Munang	LA - 29,208	52,574,400
37. Memorial Lots/2,396 Lawn lots Heaven's Gate Memorial Gardens II Sapinit Rd, Sitio Palanas, Bgy Sn Juan		P13,898/unit
38. Memorial Lots/14 units (56 lots) single niche Heaven's Gate Memorial Gardens II, Sapinit Rd, Sitio Palanas		P58,040/unit 4 lots per unit
39. Memorial Lots/73 units (1,095 lots) garden estate, Heaven's Gate Memorial Gardens II, Sapinit Rd. Sitio Palanas, Brgy San Juan		P217,650/unit 15 lots per unit
BULACAN		
40. Agrifarm/Rawlnd, Skyline Road Sitio Tungkong Mangga, Bo. Gaya-Gaya San Jose del Monte	LA - 11,904.3 FA - 3,515	16,000,000

■ RESIDENTIAL /COMMERCIAL (MIXED USE)

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	Area	Min Bid
MALABON		
41. Res'l/Comml Bldg/Lot 25-A-3 RDC Compound, Reparo Road	LA - 1,000 FA - 3,712	23,719,400
PARAÑAQUE		
42. 4Sty Res'l/Com'l Bldg/East Srvce Rd UPS 1, Ibayo (1 grd unit under lease)	LA - 360 FA-1,102.49	10,000,000

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www.bancodeoro.com.ph

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Dusit Hotel Nikko
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http://manila.dusit.com

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Makati City
Tel. 888-0505 Fax: 812-7721

Somerset Olympia, Makati
No. 7912, Makati Ave., 1220 Makati City
Tel. 812-1010 Fax: 818-8254

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www.mandarinoriental.com

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www.manilapavilion.com.ph.

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Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
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Email: goldenpineholte@skyinet.net

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www.SummerPlaceBaguio.com

The Regent Hotel
Elias, Angeles St., Naga City
Tel. (6354) 4722626 / Fax (6354) 4722525

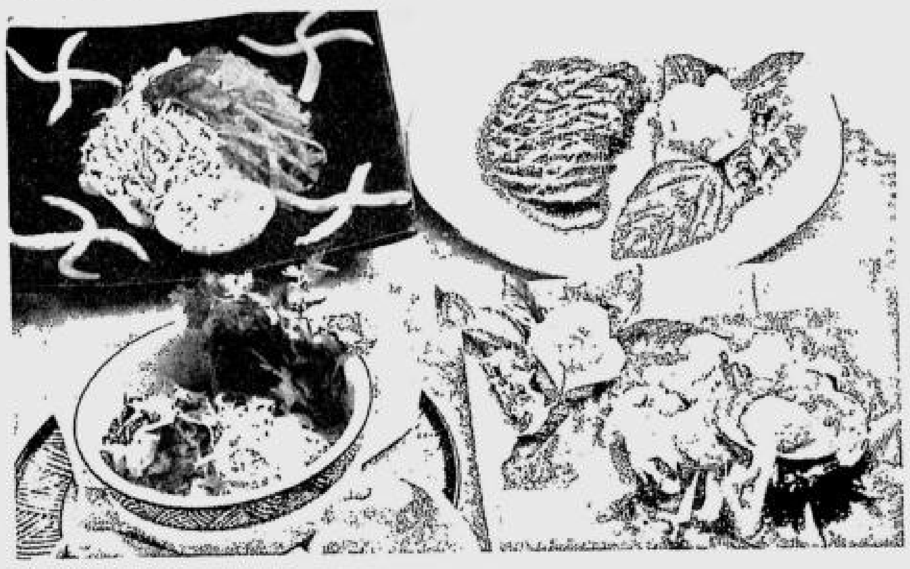
Thien Dong celebrates Vietnamese New Year

DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO'S THIEN DUONG Vietnamese Restaurant celebrates the Vietnamese New Year with "Tet Nguyen Dan" - a special Dinner Buffet prepared by their very own Vietnamese chef, chef Nguyen.

This special one-day dinner buffet is available only on Jan. 28, (Saturday) from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and pegged at only P750++ per person, which comes with a complimentary bottomless Vietnamese Iced Tea - a refreshing drink for a healthy dining experience.

Savor the best selections of Vietnamese dishes for a year of good health, long life and happiness through Thien Duong's "Tet Nguyen Dan". As an added treat, one (1) diner is free for every group of ten (10) persons when availing this special buffet.

Thien Duong is located at the ground floor of Dusit Hotel Nikko. For inquiries, please dial 867-3333 extension 3354. Advance dining reservation is advised.



Mandarin Oriental welcomes the Year of the Fire Dog

MANDARIN ORIENTAL, Manila stages its usual Chinese New Year eve festivities on Jan. 28, starting at 11 p.m. on the dawning of the Year of the Fire Dog. To be staged in the usual grand and festive fashion as it has in the past 10 years, this colourful and traditional festivity has become a landmark event in Makati City.

The festivities will start off with a prosperity motorcade led by none other than Mandarin Oriental, Manila's general manager Helmut Gaisberger together with Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay and other dignitaries, as they traverse an auspicious route that augurs good fortune in the Year of the Fire Dog. The route begins at Mandarin Oriental, and will pass through Makati Avenue, then right on Cruzada Street, right on Paseo de Roxas, and back to Mandarin Oriental.

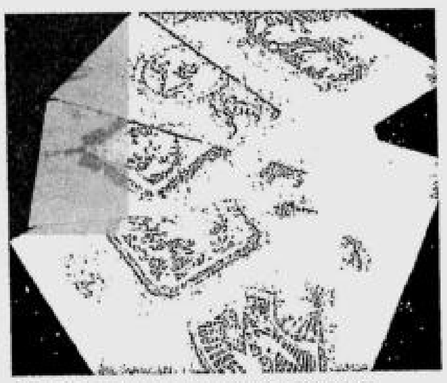
Tickets to the event are available at P1,388+++ (adult), and at P888+++ (child), inclusive of the midnight buffet and complimentary copy of Joseph Chau's Year of the Dog feng shui booklet. Ticket holders are also entitled for a chance to win luxurious accommodations for two at the newly opened The Landmark Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong via Cathay Pacific, in a grand draw which will highlight the evening's festivities.

For enquiries and reservations, call Mandarin Oriental at 750 8888 extension 2401 (for programme and midnight buffet tickets); extension 2304 (for room reservations).

The Bellevue Hotel says 'Thank You Love'

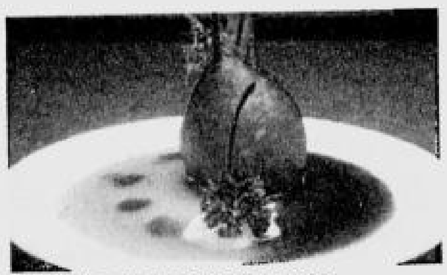
THE CONCERT VENUE south of Metro Manila, The Bellevue Grand Ballroom, plays host to lovers in love on Valentine's Day with "Thank You Love," a special show featuring top balladeer Jose Mari Chan and singer Aliya Parcs, with musical direction by Archie Castillo. For only P1,500 inclusive of two standard drinks, sing along to romantic tunes and favorite lovesongs such as Chan's all-time hits Beautiful Girl, Let's Stop and Talk Awhile and Constant Change at the elegant interiors of The Bellevue Grand Ballroom.

Extra special days deserve only an extra special menu to cap the event. In celebration of Valentine's Day, The Bellevue Hotel cooks up something extra special for couples and families celebrating the season of love. This Valentine buffet lunch and dinner is available on Feb. 13, 14 and 15. Special giveaways and live entertainment are in store for all guests. For inquiries, call 771-8181.



ASTORIA PLAZA WELCOMES THE YEAR OF THE FIRE RED DOG

Celebrate the Lunar Year of the Fire Red Dog at the hippest hotel in the progressive Ortigas Business District. Treat your family and friends to a scrumptious Chinese lunch buffet at the Café Astoria for only P550++ per person. Your favorite steaming hot dimsum, tikoy and traditional Fortune cookies add to the fun-filled occasion. Available at the Café Astoria from Jan. 26 to 28. The Astoria Plaza is part of the Cathay group of companies and is managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels & Resorts. It is conveniently located at 15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. For inquiries and reservations visit or call (02)687-1111 and ask to be connected to Café Astoria or e-mail at sales@astoriaplaza.com. Visit Astoria Plaza's website at www.astoriaplaza.com.



DESSERT OF THE MONTH

Treat yourself to something sweet and romantic at only P90. Try Rio Bar Café's Poached Glazed Pear Compote. This sweet treat is made up of one medium pear compote with duo fruit coillis sauce garnished with sugar spun. Rio Bar Café and Restaurant is located at the lobby level of The Executive Plaza Hotel, 1630 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila, with telephone number 523-1000 local 1. (Rio Bar Café's Dessert of the Month is especially created by chef Rudy Cuello).

Bakery + Catering World 2006 opens

BAKERY + CATERING WORLD 2006 OPENED Jan. 19, at the World Trade Center, Philippines. Leading the opening rites were Vice President Noli de Castro, together with Zorayda Amelia Alonzo, Undersecretary of Dept. of Trade & Industry; Salvador Salacup, Undersecretary of Dept. of Agriculture; Dominador Salvacion, representative of National Diary Authority; Roberto Trotta, Chairman, Philippine Franchise Association (PFA); Sammie Lim, chairman Emeritus, PFA; and Rafael "Boydee" Dizon, chair, Premier Events Plus Group Inc.

Over 200 booths are featured in this bakery and catering event which is the International Expo of Equipment & Supplies for the Bakery and Catering Industries. Co-located events are the Food & Bakery Franchise Hub, Flavorings & Food Ingredients Fair, Sweets & Diary Expo '06 back-to-back with Food Cart & Kiosk Show.

Seminars and workshops are also featured in the 3 day expo until Jan. 21. Day 1, Jan. 19 featured seminars on Variations & Techniques in Making Chocolates; How to Operate and Manage a Catering Business; Formula for Successful FoodCart Start-up & Operations; Cake Decorating Techniques. The second day, Jan. 20, focused on Commercial Bread Making; The A to Z of Buying A Franchise Seminar; and Native Delicacies Made Easy. On the last day, Jan. 21, learn the Art of Sugar; and How to Franchise your Business; as well as How to Acquire an ISO 9001 amongst other interesting topics.

For details and inquiries, please log on to www.bakeryworldexpo.com or email info@PEPgroup.com or call 551-5224 at the World Trade Center. The event is on-going until Jan. 21, and is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

People, Events & Products

Sharp opens service branch in Pasig City

SHARP (PHILS) CORP, IN LINE WITH ITS CAMpaign to boost customer service excellence, is inaugurating another service center. The new service center, located at Unit 103 Emerald Place Building, 604 Shaw Boulevard (with telephone numbers 636-1372 and 635-7949) will give residents of Pasig and nearby areas more options on where to experience Sharp's excellent customer service. Among Sharp's initiatives to provide customer satisfaction is the Same-Day Service, a new program to support its goal of making it more convenient for customers to have their Sharp products serviced. Through this new program, customers no longer have to wait for days to fully enjoy and maximize their hardworking Sharp appliances. Any walk-in customer who brings in his locally-manufactured Sharp appliance for repair at any of the participating service centers can have the unit repaired and claimed within the same day. Aside from the service branch in Pasig, other Sharp service centers in Metro Manila are located in Alabang, Cubao, España and Makati. And in the provinces, you will find a service center in Cabanatuan, Dagupan, Pampanga, San Pablo City, Lipa, Cavite, Palawan, Naga, Legaspi, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo, Roxas, Dumaguete, Tacloban, Ormoc, Davao, Gen. Santos, Tagum, Cagayan de Oro, Butuan, Zamboanga and Ozamis. For more convenience, Sharp also opened a toll-free hotline number, 1-800-1-888-4952, for customer follow-ups and inquiries nationwide.

RCP conducts technical seminars on new products

REFRACTORIES CORP OF THE PHILIPPINES (RCP), the country's sole producer of high temperature basic refractory bricks and monolithics, recently conducted a series of technical seminars for its customers in the cement industry. The seminars were held to introduce RCP's new products to specifically address the usage and effects of alternative fuels in kiln linings. The seminars also emphasized the importance of product zoning in cement rotary kilns to key technical staff of the various cement plants. Hisao Kozuka, technical director of Mino Yogyo Company, Ltd, and the sales and technical staff of RCP jointly conducted the seminars that were held in the premises of the cement plants located in different parts of the Philippines. Mino Yogyo is one of the joint venture partners of RCP together with the Alcantara Group, Tomen Corp and the National Development Company. Mino Yogyo is a pioneer in the development of modern spinel and other chrom-free refractories and is the technology partner of RCP. Paulino G. Garcia Jr., chief operating officer of RCP said that the series of technical seminars is part of the total product quality philosophy of RCP. "We are happy to extend the expertise of Mino Yogyo in refractory technology to our customers." Garcia said. RCP supplies refractory products to both local and international markets. Its plants in Iligan and Valenzuela are currently running at full capacity to meet customer orders for its refractory bricks.

Short Course in Urban and Regional Planning

THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL COURSE ON IN URban and Regional Planning at UP-SURP (Short Course in Urban and Regional Planning), E. Jacinto St., Diliman, Quezon City for 10 consecutive Saturdays starting Jan. 21. The cost of training per participant is P12,000. Interested LGUs, NGAs, NGOs, private sector, individuals may call Neil Maranan at tel. nos. 981-8500 local 4082; 926 2120. Application form can be downloaded at <http://www.e-learnet.org> please click News and Updates.

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Super!Countdown

1 day 'til Pacquiao Day!

STAFF
TWINS

Big day

Filipina page C3
conquers the Supermodel catwalk

Super! movie to watch:
Go Big Time!
page C2

The countdown begins for Lovapalooza '06
page D1

Celebrity tongue action only in Super!
page D4

Produced by DAVID MILAN
Photography: JAKE VERSOZA
Makeup: LEO POSADAS
Styling: CHARMAINE PALERMO
Cover stars: MICHAEL DE MESA and JAMIE WILSON at the EUROSTAR CARNIVAL at The Fort

'Yabang mo, Pinoy!'

By Tals Diaz

WE DON'T ALWAYS NEED a revolution to come together and unite.

We can start with something small, and yet still be able to raise our fists in the air to make a statment. The common bond is a little band: a piece of braided *abaca* worn on our wrists to signify being a Filipino that's truly proud to be one. (Quite literally a twist to the Livestrong advocacy). It's all part of the The Yabang Pinoy campaign, aimed to raise Filipino pride and heighten our collective dignity. *Abaca*, commonly known as the Manila hemp worldwide, is considered as the strongest natural fiber that is indigenous to the Philippine islands. The bands are crafted by underprivileged communities living in stilt houses, so you even get to help out with every bracelet you buy.

The campaign was founded by a group of young Filipinos who realized that one of the biggest problems faced by the Philippines today is Filipinos not believing enough in their nationality.

YABANG PINOY

ipag yabang na ikaw ay Pilipino

All you need to do is e-mail info@yabangpinoy.com to answer the question, *"Ano ang maipagyayabang mo bilang isang Pilipino?"* together with your name and contact number. The best testimonials are collated on the website, www.yabangpinoy.com.

Call it a cool revolution, a cool Pinoy revolution. Wear the band and raise your fists in the air, not to overthrow, but to uplift. *Yabang, 'noh?*

Eat good, live bad longer. Whatever lifestyle you choose, it's always a good choice to be healthy with our pure, natural and organic products.

healthy Options®
better choices | better life

SHOWING US WHAT THEY'RE REALLY MADE OF. Michael de Mesa and Jamie Wilson at EuroStar Carnival at The Fort.

Take a bite of Big Time's bouts

By James Gabrillo
Photos by Jake Versoza

"EVERYBODY PLAYS THE GAME, everybody knows it's crooked, but it's the only game in the country."

Pause for thought.

This week, Pinoys have been going mad over our hero Manny "Pac Man" Pacquiao and Erik Morales' rematch. But we at Super! are urging all of you to consider one more thing worth flippin' for.

No, it's not the Eurostar Carnival where this Super! shoot was done, although that place rocks our socks. We're talking about a small film with gigantic potential.

Two small-time criminals, a wannabe actress, the son of a crime lord, and a kidnapping that brings all of them togther for what should be the golden ticket to their dreams. Blend together, and place them all under the control of two directors' deft hands—and you've got a kick-ass picture. Bettys and dudes, prepare to be wowed by "Big Time."

Pause for applause.

BRAINS, BRAWN, BIG TIME. Be amazed when the film opens on Jan. 25 in your favorite SM Cinemas.

Major studios should be very, very scared of Arkeofilms—they have the unconventional yet ultra-effective short 'Mansyon' in one hand and their Super! full-length 'Big Time' in the other

The Big Time fairy-tale

After robbing P500 and an urn of the Pinoy favorite snack Chocnut from a tiny sari-sari store, Jonas (Nor Domingo) and Danny (Winston Elizalde) decide to fasten their act together and finally hit the *big time*.

The twosome cautiously diagram an abduction of Melody (Joanne Miller), the foxiest lady in the Tambo neighborhood.

But when Wilson (Jamie Wilson), Melody's fling, interrupts the revelry, the duo gets stuck in a spot too hard to handle. Wilson's an especially secure rich chap who grew up in the States and plans to someday be the head honcho of their *familia*'s unlawful dealings.

Joining the bash are Melody's parents—cab driver Desi (Tony Roma) and doting stage mom Teresa (Carme Sanchez), who are both incredibly addicted to prayer rallies and jamborees.

Just when the situation couldn't get any wilder, Wilson's pop Don Manolo (Michael de Mesa) enters the scene and messes things up via his possession of an ultra-controlling muscle and, um, his dramatic theatrical utterances.

Mad things start taking place as the four bolt themselves up in a creepy house with mannequins. Emotions acquire center stage and loyalties rock and shatter as the audience is led to a startling ending.

Behind the big party

The film's creators, Mario Cornejo and Monster Jimenez, were initially planning to pitch the Big Time tale to Filipino-American actor Ernie Reyes Jr. (The Rundown, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles) but that ended with zilch results.

Enter the Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film competition. Big Time made it to the top ten, which only signaled one thing: It was time to start working. Tough tasks poured in but the two directors remained alert.

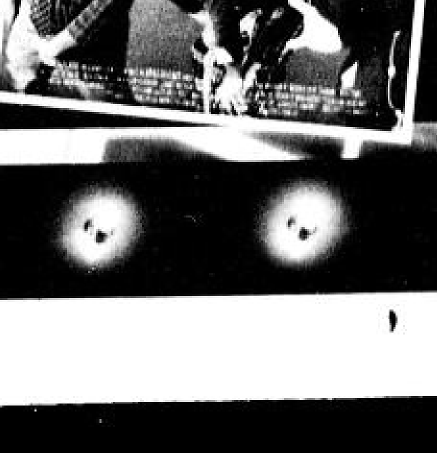
"I think it paid off," says Mario in Big Time's website. "Our actors were first and foremost amazingly talented. But more than that, they were so easy to get along with and amazingly fun to work with."

Monster, who took charge of the film's casting, agrees. "Shooting Big Time was such great fun that many of the actors have become our good friends."

Big Time's thirteen-day shoot was described as "easily the most fun everyone had." But of course, things wouldn't be complete without exciting yet rather grating instances attacking the arrangement.

"On the first day of shoot, Metro Manila was drenched at the height of a tropical storm. The second day was threatened to be cancelled. But by midnight of the first day, the storm had subsided, and the weather was friendlier after that.

Midway into the shoot, one of the cameras stopped functioning, forcing the production to find a new camera and pushing the schedule back five hours. Despite everything, the production continued to beat the festival's deadline."



SA LAHAT NG GUSTONG SUMIKAT
SA LAHAT NG GUSTONG YUMAMAN
SA LAHAT NG GUSTONG MABINO
Big Time

No, man, the guest list isn't small time

Big Time features awesome performances from leads Michael de Mesa, Nor Domingo, Winston Elizalde, Jamie Wilson, and Joanne Miller.

Supporting roles were played by Frederick Edwards, Joel Ruiz, Tony Roma, Gerry Cornejo, Amante Pulido, and Carme Sanchez. Surprise and enjoyable appearances were provided by Soxy Topacio, Ryan Eigenmann, Jon Santos and Mayor Lito Atienza, starring in what is possibly one of the most riotous scenes in the film.

Watch it, watch it, watch it, and, um, watch it

This unique, dark, and unapologetic comedy has been hailed by film buffs as "a Tagalog movie that doesn't oversell a joke or rely on slapstick." They got it right.

Its structure is one that we Pinoys haven't seen before. Its edginess is just right—it doesn't compromise the storytelling at all.

Big Time's rad in a lot of ways, but it shines best with its combination of a hilarious script and an ultra-capable bunch of actors. Punch lines are spotlessly delivered, timing's just immaculate, and the general mood's just pure fun.

The film ridicules and plays with Pinoy pop culture, and shows us why they deserve the right to do so—Mario and Monster both possess a distinct yet ultra-clear understanding of what's been going on around.

Plus, Big Time makes you think about how we Pinoys strive with all our might just to hit, well, the big time.

We gamble with everything we've got in hopes of acquiring a win. We stay awake at night to draft our plans to dominate even just a small miniscule corner in the world. Even if we've

SUPER! SCOOP

PHOTO BY CESAR O OF RUNWAY PRODUCTIONS

Muse flash: Filipina conquers the Supermodel catwalk

17-year-old Charo Ronquillo wins $100,000 contract from Ford Models New York

CATWALKING. Charo is the first Asian to place in the top three in the 25-year history of the Supermodel competition

BEING interviewed by E Network after the pageant

SUPERMODELS ALL. Charo Ronquillo from the Philippines, Katsia Damenkova from Belarus and Bojana Reijic from Canada

Tim Yap

FILIPINA BEAUTY IS ON A roll these days. After **Precious Lara Quigaman** bagged the Miss International crown, another Filipina has made us stand taller in the global modeling front.

Finally, after close to two decades since the first Filipina, **Melanie Marquez** joined the Supermodel of the World contest, another morena beauty captured the critical eye of Ford Models Inc., one of the most prestigious modeling agencies in the world.

17-year-old Cal Carrie model **Charo Ronquillo** garnered second runner-up status among a field of 39 stunning models from all over the world last Wednesday. She bagged a $100,000 modeling contract with Ford Models New York, joining the ranks of other Ford girls like **Naomi Campbell**, **Jerry Hall**, **Veronica Webb**, **Stephanie Seymour** and **Vendela**.

A schoolgirl from Belarus, **Katya Damenkova** got the title, followed by Canadian model **Bojana Reijic** as first runner-up.

Charo is the first Asian model in the entire 25-year history of the Supermodel of the World Competition to make it to the top three.

"Now we've produced a winner!" **Tina Herrera** of Runway Productions, who has been behind the Supermodel scenes for seven years now, exclaimed.

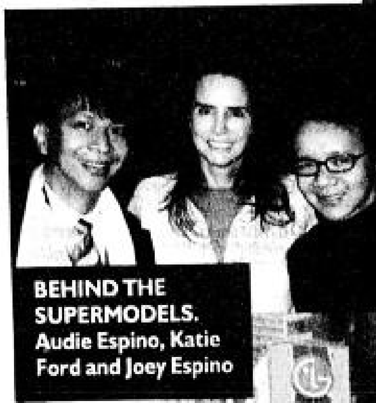
Charo is now in the thick of a publicity blitzkrieg with photo shoots and new fashion campaigns including a guesting stint at NBC's Today Show with **Matt Lauer** and **Katie Kuric. Jade Robertson** of Ford Models, who judged the Philippine finals, and Katie Ford herself chose Charo to speak in behalf of the other models in the competition.

Described as the "Asian version of **Kate Moss**," Charo exudes a great attitude and a deep spirituality. **Joey Espino**, founder of Cal Carries and Runway productions, responsible for the training and development of models, places great emphasis on spirituality. "In a world full of glitz and glamour, being grounded with God always puts you in the right place," I would remember Joey telling us during Cal Carrie's spiritual retreats.

In fact, before Joey handed her over to Ford, he brought her to St Patrick's Cathedral. They prayed together before heading over to the Hudson Hotel, where the winners were billeted.

During the Supermodel World Finals Event night, a photo exhibition of the finalists was on display at the reception area and immediately the guests were in awe of Charo's beautiful photos shot by the world's top photographers. According to Jade, "The audience reception for Charo was absolutely wonderful. They immediately took notice of Charo early on in the evening, giving her great reception during the competition. Ford Models New York has every hope in Charo and believes that she will make it big in the international modeling market."

Charo may be this generation's chosen one who will make the Filipina shine once again on the global fashion ramp.



BEHIND THE SUPERMODELS. Audie Espino, Katie Ford and Joey Espino

STRIKE A POSE. In a Dominique James photo (left) and at her winning moment at the Supermodel Philippines Finals

NEW YORK MINUTE. Charo at Times Square, taken by Tina Herrera

CHARO IN HER FIRST SUPER! COVER. With other fresh faced models in a photo by Steve Tirona

Zen and the art of telling time

TIMELESS DESIGN. Architect Gil Coscolluela inside the Chronos store

By Tals Diaz
Photo by Ramon Mangila

IF THE PAST 2005 WAS all about cutting back, perhaps it's about time to usher in a new kind of attitude, a fresh perspective of neo-luxury for the new year. The key is balancing the elements to manifest an effortless, timeless style. To express this attitude shift, Chronos has welcomed the young and unflappable architect Gil Coscolluela to redesign their stores showcasing their high-end watch brands.

"It wasn't too difficult creating a sense of luxury for the store," shares Gil, who himself embodies this neo-luxe attitude with his easygoing sense of style. "The design and choice of materials used in the Chronos store are just complementary details used to enhance their merchandise, and eventually provide a better visual backdrop for the overall store design." This successful architect believes that in an increasingly complex world, going back to basics and keeping things simple is the way to achieve a sense of balance. A watch, in fact, bespeaks of this philosophy of balance and symmetry, with its attention to detail and design packed together in one piece, to perform its practical function of telling time.

Simplicity and stylishness, balance and symmetry—elements of timeless design.

Best powered by: Energizer Take Life To The MAX

SPEED-TECH Radio Control Racing Grand Tourisimo GRAND FINALS

January 22, 2006

SPEED ZONE
FORT BONIFACIO TAGUIG CITY

Registration is from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM. Competition is open to Speed-Tech Grand Tourismo Semi-Final winners

PRIZES AT STAKE GRAND FINALS
1ST PLACE: Speed-Tech 1:8 scale R/C, Trophy, Jacket and PhP 15,000
2ND PLACE: Speed-Tech 1:8 scale R/C, Trophy, Jacket and PhP 10,000
3RD PLACE: Speed-Tech 1:8 scale R/C, Trophy, Jacket and PhP 5,000
[illegible] Speed-Tech 1:10 scale R/C and Plaque

NOTE: Prizes are non-transferrable and non-convertible to cash. Prizes that are unclaimed after 60 days will be forfeited in favor of SMARTY TOYS Corporation, with prior approval of DTI-NCR. Employees of Smarty Toys, participating department stores, their ad agencies, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not eligible to join this promotion.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3072, Series of 2005

CONGRATULATIONS!!!
To the winners of the Speed-Tech Grand Tourismo Semi-Finals (10th leg) held at SM Megamall on January 8, 2006

DTI Representative Aida Biglang-Awa and the Energizer Running Man with the SM Megamall winners. (L-R) **MARK ANTHONY SANTOS** (1st place), **ARJAY SANTOS** (2nd place), and **JOHN CLEMENT MACALINO** (3rd place).

Energizer IS THE OFFICIAL BATTERY OF SPEED-TECH GRAND TOURISMO
For pre-registration, inquiries and information, call us at (02) 743-0251, MON to SAT, 9AM - 5PM.

Super Yoyo Freestyle Challenge
January 8, 2006 at SM Megamall Activity Center

Yoyo Masters Edmund San Antonio (extreme left) and Philip Rodriguez (extreme right) flanking the Super Yoyo Freestyle Challenge winners (L-R) **PAOLO MEDIALDEA** (2nd place), **JEFF TUGADE** (1st place), and **JAM LEWIS PEÑAS** (3rd place)

Major sponsor: SUSTAGEN

Brought to you by: SM SUPERMALLS

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Calls Local Sun-to-Sun	12 midnight to 6:00 pm	UNLIMITED
	6:01 pm – 11:59 pm	P1.00/min starting on the first minute via regular load. To make successful calls you will need to have sufficient load in your account during this time.
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Super

style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

SUPER! CLOSEUP SPECIAL!

Live, love and love out loud now

UNILEVER HPC Managing Director Noel Lorenzana

By James Gabrillo

YOU AND YOUR SUPER! friends out there are probably pondering and itching to find the answer to this deep, mind-bending question: What's so special about this February? Well, wait no longer 'cause we're here to supply you with the answer.

Enter the CloseUp Lovapalooza 2006.

Leave it to the red and white brigade to magically turn your movie-like dream sequences into reality. And guess what? Not only will your special someone be present, but millions of Pinoys are gonna be there to support you.

Who's excited? C'mon, this is no time to be subtle—raise your hand.

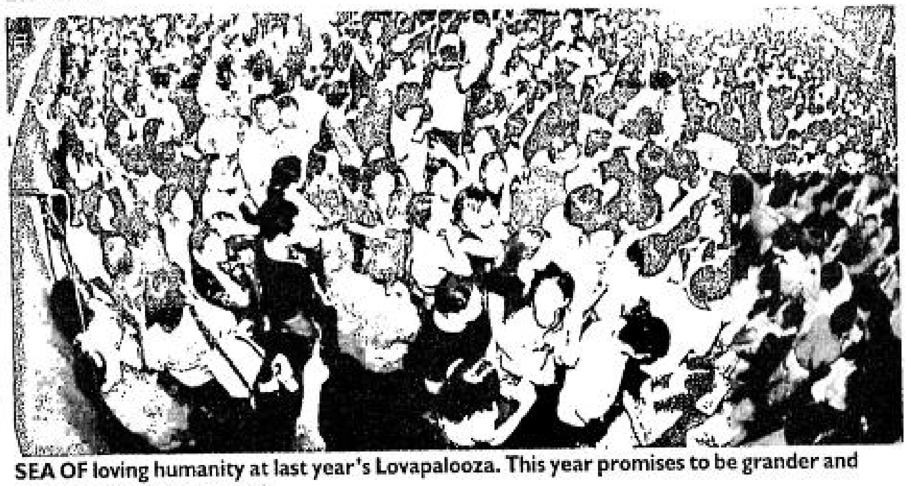
"How you truly feel for that one special person is best expressed in a big way," shares Anna Fernandez, CloseUp's brand manager.

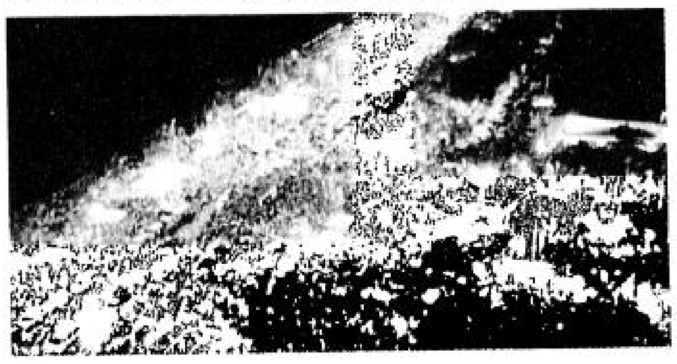
"And nothing can be bigger than saying it in this year's ultimate venue for romance! We want to encourage the public to take part by expressing their love in a grand way ... propose on live television, serenade her in front of thousands, or give her a fireworks display! And since it's CloseUp, it's just right to seal that gift of love with a kiss."

CloseUp Lovapalooza 2006 gathers all you Super! romantics on Feb. 11 in four simultaneous heart-filled parties at Roxas Boulevard

LIVE/ D2

closeup
Lovapalooza
TOAST TO LOVAPALOOZA 2006. Unilever's Marketing Director Noel Lorenzana, Close Up Brand Manager Anna Fernandez, Assistant Brand Manager Tish Condeno, and a roster of stars and performers


SEA OF loving humanity at last year's Lovapalooza. This year promises to be grander and more romantic love event!

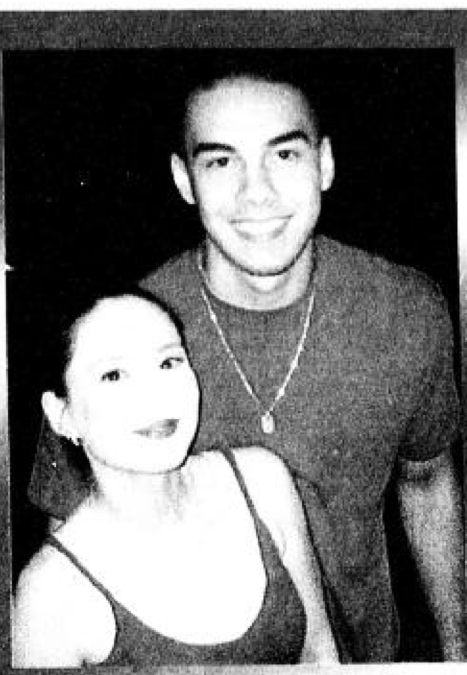


Express your love with a Kiss!
NEW
closeup
Strawberry Kiss
LIMITED EDITION
FLUORIDE
new active gel
closeup
Strawberry Kiss
Available only this Valentine's Season

lovapalooza
lovapalooza

SMILE SENSATIONS. Rafael Rossel and Karel Marquez

LOVE THEME. Iya Villania and Drew Arellano



KISS COURT. Cheska Garcia and Doug Kramer

I HEART YOU. Nyc

Seeing stars, and not just hearts at Lovapa

YOU THINK THAT'S IT? WAIT 'TIL YOU here this. The love month's just around the corner, and everyone's psyching themselves up to show their love with a kiss in a cool Valentine celebration.

Capture the moment at the Close Up Lovapalooza 2006, along with celebrity guests led by Bea Alonzo, John Lloyd Cruz and Sam Milby. Hosting the party are duos Borgy Manotoc and Ornussa Cadness, and Luis Manzano and Nancy Castiglione.

Joining them during the night are Drew Arellano, Iya Villania, James Blanco, Danica Sotto, John Pratts, Bianca King, Cheska Garcia, Doug Kramer, Camille Pratts, and Marco Alcaraz. The list goes on.

There's more.

Y'all can enjoy listening to live performances of the hit melodies of musical artists and bands like Kitchie Nadal, Barbie Almalbis, Paolo Santos, Nina, Nyoy Volante, Jimmy Bondoc, Pops Fernandez, Bamboo, Parokya ni Edgar, Rivermaya, Cueshe, Brownman Revival, Sugarfree, South Border, Mojofly, 6 Cycle Mind, and Spongecola.

Plus, the whole night, DJs will be spinning infectious beats. Whew. Are you convinced yet that you gotta be there?

Hop on over and feel the love.

Live, love . . .

From page D1

Baywalk in Manila, Bayanihan Park, MacArthur Highway in Angeles, Ayala Center in Cebu, and Matina Town Square in Davao—complete with the country's coolest bands and performers to serenade the thousands of lovestruck couples.

Unilever Marketing Director Noel Lorenzana tells Super!: "The CloseUp brand is an icon. Everybody has their own Closeip moments. And that is what we are celebrating. I truly believe love is the greatest experience. In a time when the world is facing too many issues, the world needs love. And this year, we want to encourage as many to love grand."

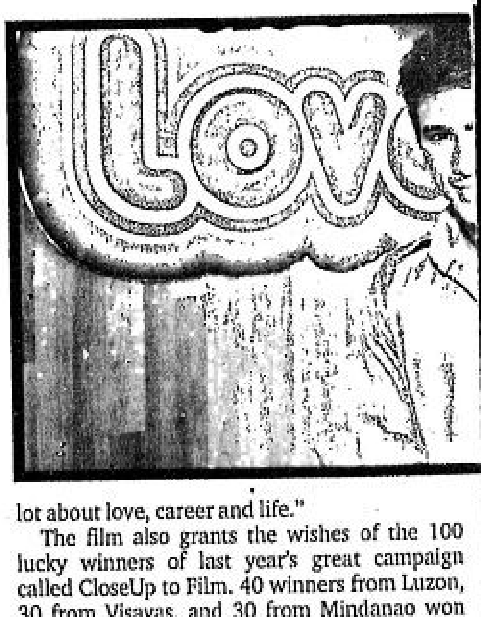
Be a part of this big, big Valentine celebration.

CloseUp will select 16 of the most romantic ideas for expressing love across the nation and will bring these ideas to life at Lovapalooza—and yours could be one of them! If you have a grand love idea, send it to Visions and Expressions, Room 303 Townes Building, 916 Arnaiz Ave., formerly Pasay Road, Makati City; or through e-mail visions@i-manila.com.ph; or through SMS at 09209703221 before Jan. 31, 2005.

UNILEVER'S dream Close Up team: Unilever's Dondi Gomez, Unilever Foods Managing Director Benjie Yap, Close Up Assistant Brand Managers Patricia Condeno and Derek Sotto, Close Up Brand Manager Anna Fernandez, Unilever Managing Director Noel Lorenzana, Gilbert Simpao, Whitney Cua and Andrew Tuaño.

Makin' 100 dreams co at the first Valentine

FROM YEARS OF CHURNING out both effective and fresh tube commercials, CloseUp brings love moments on to the silver screen with its first feature film entitled "Close To You."



In cooperation with Star Cinema and directed by Cathy Garcia-Molina, "Close To You" stars the love team of John Lloyd Cruz and Bea Alonzo. The movie also marks the film debut of Sam Milby.

"Close To You" is about a girl (Alonzo) and her childhood crush, the most pop guy in school (Milby). Hmm ... classic. While she's goin' gaga over Milby's character, her best friend (Cruz) secretly holds his love for her too. Aha—it's a love triangle! This smells dilemma! Exclamation point!

Milby shares, "It's a dream come true for me to be part of this project. I never expected anything like this to happen. To be doing a movie with one of the country's biggest love teams is a privilege."

He adds, "It is really a learning experience. The beauty about the film is that it's taught me a lot about love, career and life."

The film also grants the wishes of the 100 lucky winners of last year's great campaign called CloseUp to Film. 40 winners from Luzon, 30 from Visayas, and 30 from Mindanao won various prizes including the opportunity to become a part of the cast in this full-length feature.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

y Volante and NIna

KISS CHARMING. Marco Alcaraz

It's time for a Strawberry Kiss

THE SEASON OF LOVE'S just around the corner, which means only one thing—the prices of roses are gonna rise up tremendously. Oh, that and well—it's the time to show your special friend just how much you care for him or her.

Are you ready to make your grandest, uber-bestest expression of love for the whole wide wild world to see? We can't hear you!

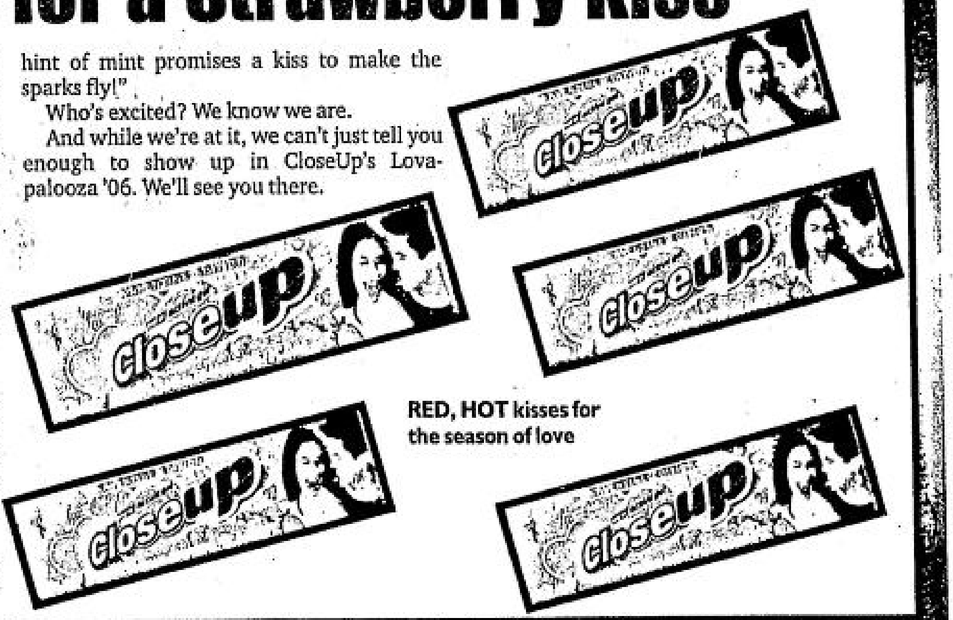
Well, CloseUp makes sure you are.

And to make your expressions of love even sweeter (yes oh yes), CloseUp introduces a commemorative variant made especially for this season: the new CloseUp Strawberry Kiss! (This is your cue to applaud, jump around, go crazy, and eat fire.)

According to the kiddos behind CloseUp, "the delicious taste of strawberries with a hint of mint promises a kiss to make the sparks fly!"

Who's excited? We know we are.

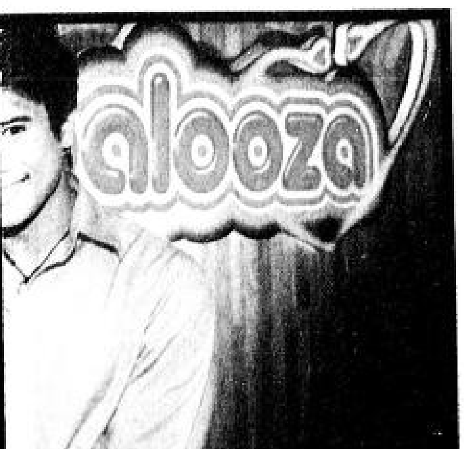
And while we're at it, we can't just tell you enough to show up in CloseUp's Lovapalooza '06. We'll see you there.



RED, HOT kisses for the season of love

looza '06

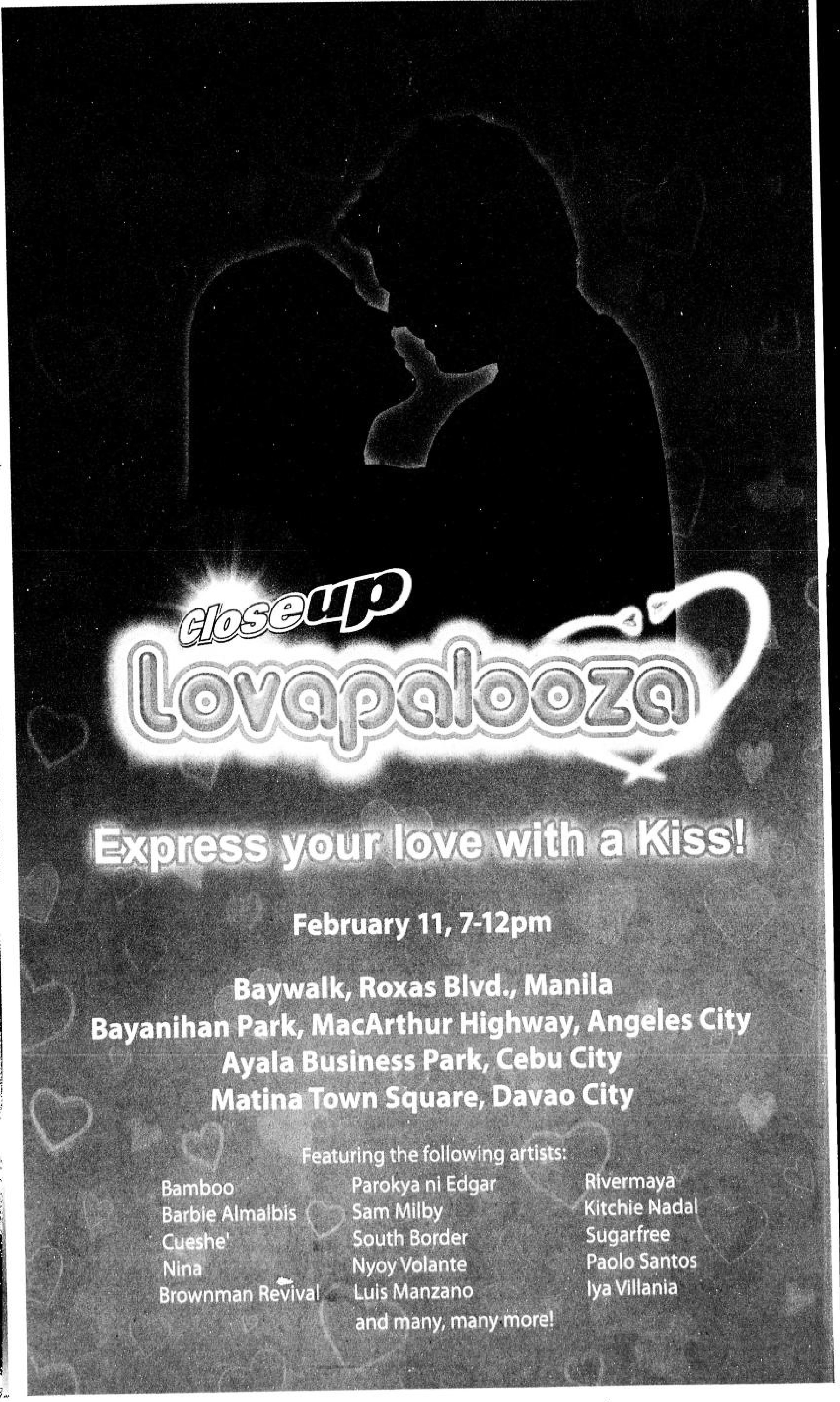
ome true
e movie



Shot across the country, the movie gives the 100 winners of CloseUp to Film the chance to experience first-hand how it is to be in front of the cams.

All these come to life when "Close to You" hits theaters nationwide on Feb. 15.

James Gabrillo


closeup
Lovapalooza

Express your love with a Kiss!

February 11, 7-12pm

Baywalk, Roxas Blvd., Manila
Bayanihan Park, MacArthur Highway, Angeles City
Ayala Business Park, Cebu City
Matina Town Square, Davao City

Featuring the following artists:

Bamboo
Barbie Almalbis
Cueshe'
Nina
Brownman Revival
Parokya ni Edgar
Sam Milby
South Border
Nyoy Volante
Luis Manzano
Rivermaya
Kitchie Nadal
Sugarfree
Paolo Santos
Iya Villania
and many, many more!

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

KISSING REVOLUTION. Borgy Manotoc and Ornussa Cadness

SEALED WITH A KISS. Nicole Hernandez and Paolo Villavicencio

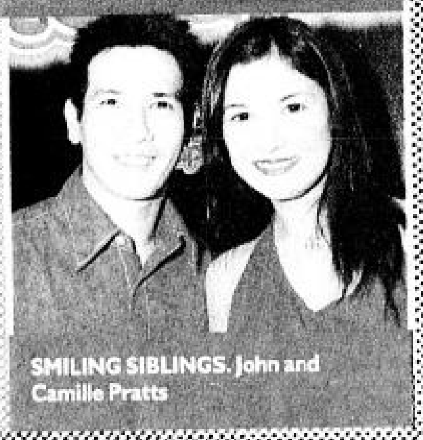
SMOOCH FEST. Lisa Rossiter and Joel Tantoco

CLOSEUP'S VALENTINE SEASON

Jumpstarting the red Hot month

SMILING BUDDIES. William Devaughn with JM Rodriguez

HARD COURT LOVING. Vince Hizon and Shaan Hizon


SMILING SIBLINGS. John and Camille Pratts

JOWAPALOOZA. Ron and Carol George

CLOSEUP RECENTLY kicked off the start of the Valentine season with the hip launch of its annual Lovapalooza campaign at the Embassy Superclub at The Fort.

Luis Manzano and Nancy Castiglione welcomed the guests as they went in the club and gave them a sneak peek on the innovative things to expect from Lovapalooza.

Taking center stage to charm the crowd were Paolo Santos, Nyoy Volante, and Nina as they sang their hit tunes.

As everybody headed to the main area adorned with love seats and heart-structured pillows (sparked by the new Close-Up Strawberry Kiss), they were welcomed by the brand's newest endorser, reality TV's Sam Milby who sang "Close to You," the theme track of the upcoming CloseUp Movie.

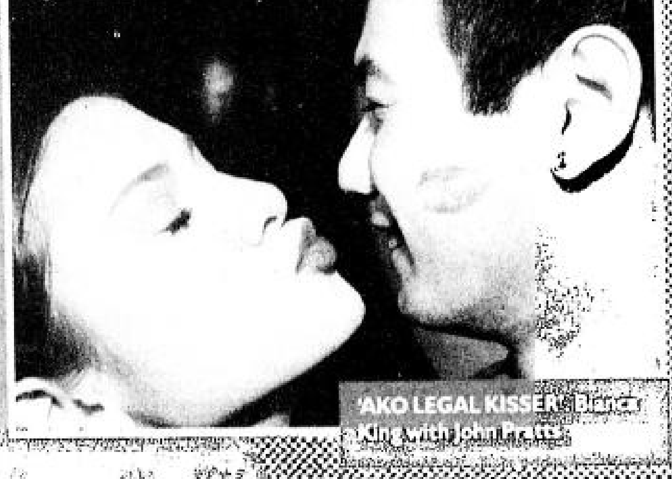
Hosts Drew Arellano and Iya Villania made sure people would stay awake the whole night, and made everyone smile when Drew gave Iya a hundred roses and read her a poem. Brave! Intense! Very February!

The peeps behind the event then spoke of their quest to show everyone how people cherish one another through that ace expression of love.

The night's toast was led by Unilever Managing Director Noel Lorenzana and CloseUp Brand Manager Anna Fernandez as everyone raised their strawberry drinks for the upcoming Lovapalooza festivities. They were joined by Unilever Foods Managing Director Benjie Yap, Unilever's Marketing Managers Gilbert Simpao and Dondi Gomez, CloseUp Assistant Brand Managers Patricia Condeno and Derek Sotto, Unilever Brand Manager Whitney Cua and CloseUp Brand Assistant Andrew Tuaño.

CloseUp's launch party capped off with performances from Barbie Almalbis and Kitchie Nadal.

Seen enjoying the gathering were couple Borgy Manotoc and Ornussa Cadness; talented gals Mariel Rodriguez, Bianca King, and Georgina Wilson; sports couple Vince and Shaan Hizon; model tandem Paolo Villavicencio and Nicole Hernandez; pals Brad Turvey, Marco Alcaraz, Will Devaughn, William Thio, and JM Rodriguez; and even past CloseUp models Chesca Diaz Morales, Rudolph Yaptinchay, Mia Prats, and Cathy da Roza. Also captured by the cam were Joel Tantoco and CloseUp model Lisa Rossiter.


'AKO LEGAL KISSER'. Bianca King with John Pratts

ROUND TWO. Luis Manzano and Nancy Castiglione

PINOY BIG KISSMATE. Sam Milby

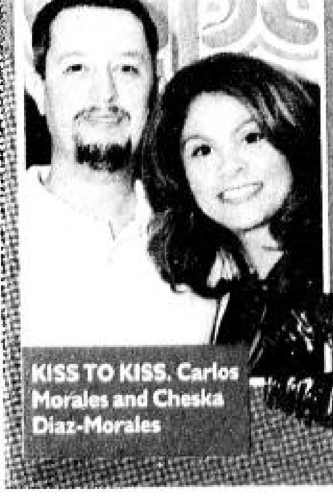
KISSING JOCK. Mariel Rodriguez

KISSAPALOOZA. Danica Sotto and Marco Alcaraz

SOULMATE. Raymond and Thess Gonzales

LOVAPALIZERS. Mia Pratts and Rudolph Yaptinchay

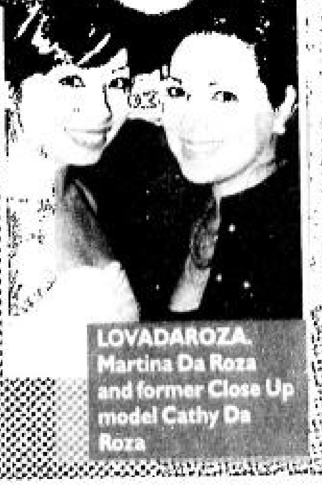
KISSING BRANDIT. Brad Turvey


KISS TO KISS. Carlos Morales and Cheska Diaz-Morales

KING OF KISSES. Unilever HPC Managing Director Noel Lorenzana with wife Gina

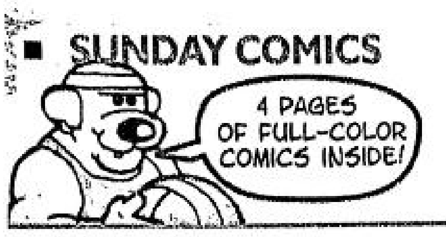
KISS ONE KISS ALL. Anna Fernandez with Mario Mangilin

KISSED FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME. Maritoni Fernandez with beau Dritter Sarmiento


LOVADAROZA. Martina Da Roza and former Close Up model Cathy Da Roza

KISS BITSERS. Sisters Bianca and Margarita Locsin

■ **SUNDAY COMICS**



■ **ENTERTAINMENT / A3-1**

PDI man in Hollywood helps keep traffic moving on the Red Carpet

■ **WORLD / A11**

Northern, eastern Europe in deep freeze; Russia hardest hit; 70 die

■ **MAGAZINE**

Bold star is Seventh Day Adventist but now ready for Big Time

'Balikbayanis' rebuild country of their roots

By Eline Santos

YOU MIGHT WANT TO ADD A NEW WORD TO your Tagalog lexicon: "balikbayani," a successful Filipino who has built a wonderful life abroad, and then comes home to rebuild the country of his roots.

Last Jan. 8 to 15, around 80 Filipino-Americans, including a few non-Filipinos, paid their

BALIKBAYANIS/ A7

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, January 22, 2006 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 45 P18 website: www.inq7.net

They're dying to receive donations of 'used' coffins

By Jerry E. Esplanada

PWEDE BANG
UKAY-UKAY
NA KABAONG?

DONATE YOUR USED clothes, books and, uh, coffins.

The Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE), a non-government group working with older

THEY'RE/ A6

Cracks in AFP showing

Palace security tightened

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Philip C. Tubeza

AMID RUMBLINGS OF COUP PLOTS, Malacañang yesterday expressed confidence the military was solidly behind President Macapagal-Arroyo, but Palace security has been tightened.

Presidential guards were in full military gear, the Palace gates leading to the Don Chino Roces (Mendiola) bridge were closed, and Ms Arroyo, who in the past often spent her weekends at work, kept her schedule this weekend private.

A day after incoming Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor warned that Malacañang would fight "fire with fire" if rebel officers used violence in their bid to unseat Ms Arroyo, the Palace appeared to downplay the threat of any serious attempt against the presidency.

Crossing party lines, senators criticized Malacañang for warning that there would be bloodshed if military rebels moved against Ms Arroyo.

"The statement was uncalled for," Sen. Mar Roxas said.

"The use of force by a state presupposes that there is a moral basis to resort to such violence. Malacañang must exercise extreme caution as it contemplates the use of such force. With waning public support, it may find itself in a situation it may be unable to control, which in turn may result in its collapse," Roxas said.

He said Defensor's statement "raises the stakes in the current political crisis."

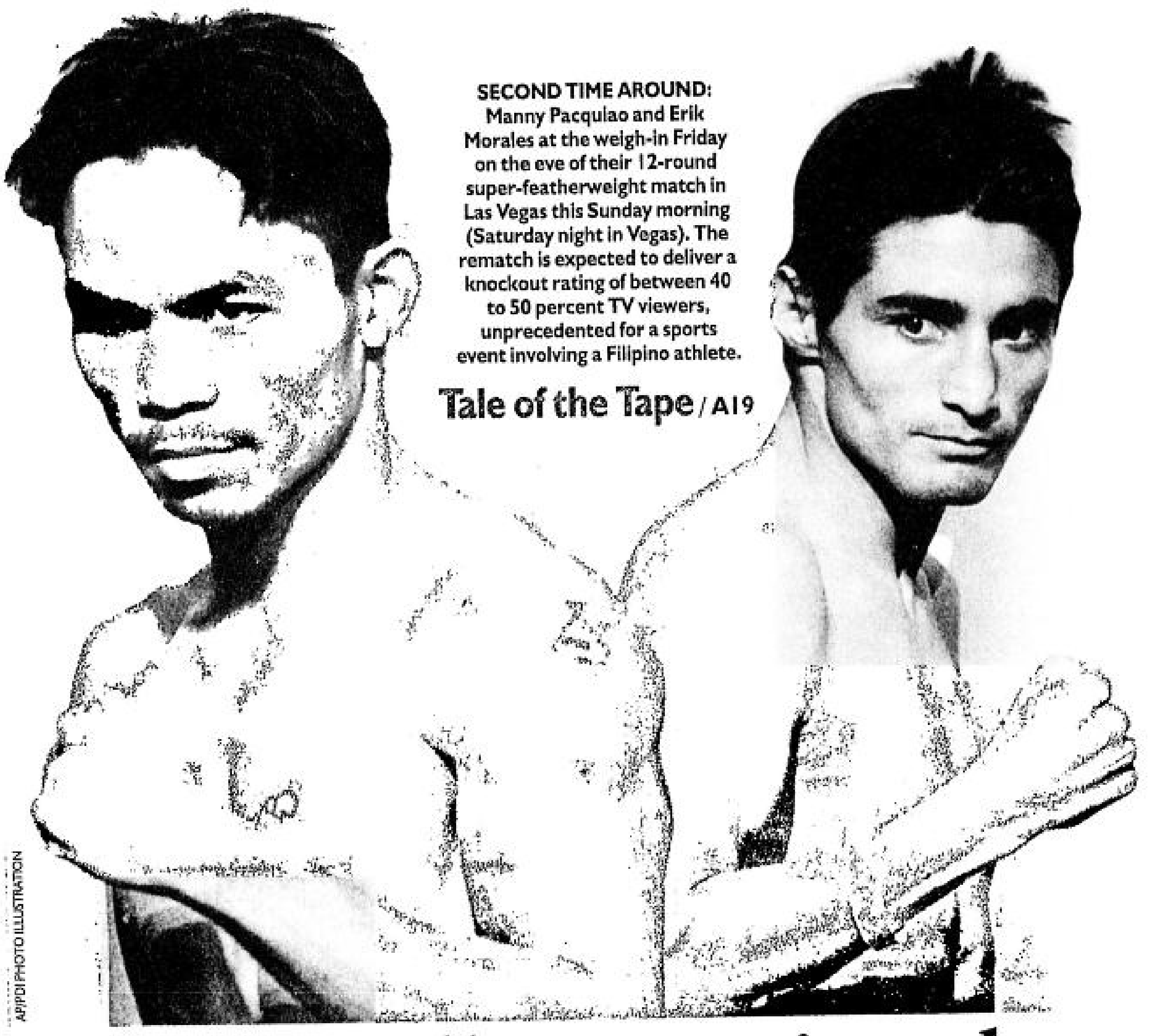
Administration Sen. Ralph Recto said incendiary statements could only worsen the situation.

"Fighting fire with fire will only burn the house down," Recto said. "This reminder also goes to those who plan to bring this government down violently. Our overheated politics needs to cool down."

He added: "Any disturbance in the political front will set us back for years. Let us not shoot ourselves in the foot again."

"The President believes that the

PALACE/ A6



SECOND TIME AROUND: Manny Pacquiao and Erik Morales at the weigh-in Friday on the eve of their 12-round super-featherweight match in Las Vegas this Sunday morning (Saturday night in Vegas). The rematch is expected to deliver a knockout rating of between 40 to 50 percent TV viewers, unprecedented for a sports event involving a Filipino athlete.

Tale of the Tape / A19

AP/PDI PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Pacquiao all out to win today

LAS VEGAS—ERIK MORALES IS IN A must-win situation tonight in his super featherweight rematch against Manny Pacquiao. Then again, so is Pacquiao.

Morales is coming off a lackluster performance in a loss to Zahir Raheem in September at Staples Center, thus, the 29-year-old needs a solid performance.

Pacquiao won his last fight—a sixth knockout victory over Mexican Hector Velasquez last September—but lost the previous bout to Morales last March in Las Vegas.

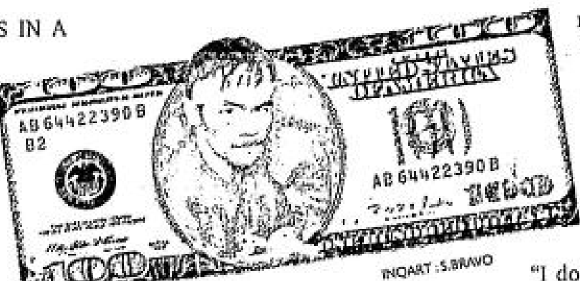
When they square off for the second time tonight (about10 a.m. Sunday in Manila) at Thomas & Mack Center, their respective futures, as well as a lot of pride, will be on the line. They will fight in the 12-round main event for the World Boxing Council International belt, with the winner being named top contender to WBC champion Marco Antonio Barrera, who was knocked out by Pacquiao three years ago.

Another loss for Morales could signal the end to what has been a fantastic career with world titles in three weight classes. Pacquiao cannot afford consecutive losses to Morales if he expects to remain among boxing's elite.

"I don't care if it's by decision or by knockout, I need to win," said Pacquiao, who is so big in the Philippines that President Macapagal-Arroyo will introduce the fight to fans there watching on television.

"I have trained hard," said Pacquiao, 27, of General Santos City. "Both of us, we train hard. But I have to get revenge and recover my name because I lost in

PACQUIAO/ A7



INQART : S.BRAVO

What does Pacman do with his $2 M? / B1

Top ranks seen to sympathize with soldiers

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

CRACKS ARE SHOWING IN THE TOP echelons of the Armed Forces, whose leadership has repeatedly sworn loyalty to President Macapagal-Arroyo despite the "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal.

AFP insiders pointed out that over the past week, two ranking military officials made it possible for junior officers detained for the Oakwood mutiny of July 27, 2003, to make known through the media their sentiments vis a vis the Arroyo administration.

Last Thursday, Philippine Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes permitted 12 rebel PAF officers to speak with the INQUIRER in their detention quarters at Villamor Air Base. Two days earlier, Brig. Gen. Marlu Quevedo, head of the Intelligence Service of the AFP, did not stop Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes, a leader of the mutinous Magdalo group, from giving interviews after a hearing at the Makati Regional Trial Court. *(Stories on Page A7.)*

Trillanes' call for a "change" in the status quo presaged the escape of four Magdalo officers from an Army detention center in Fort Bonifacio later Tuesday.

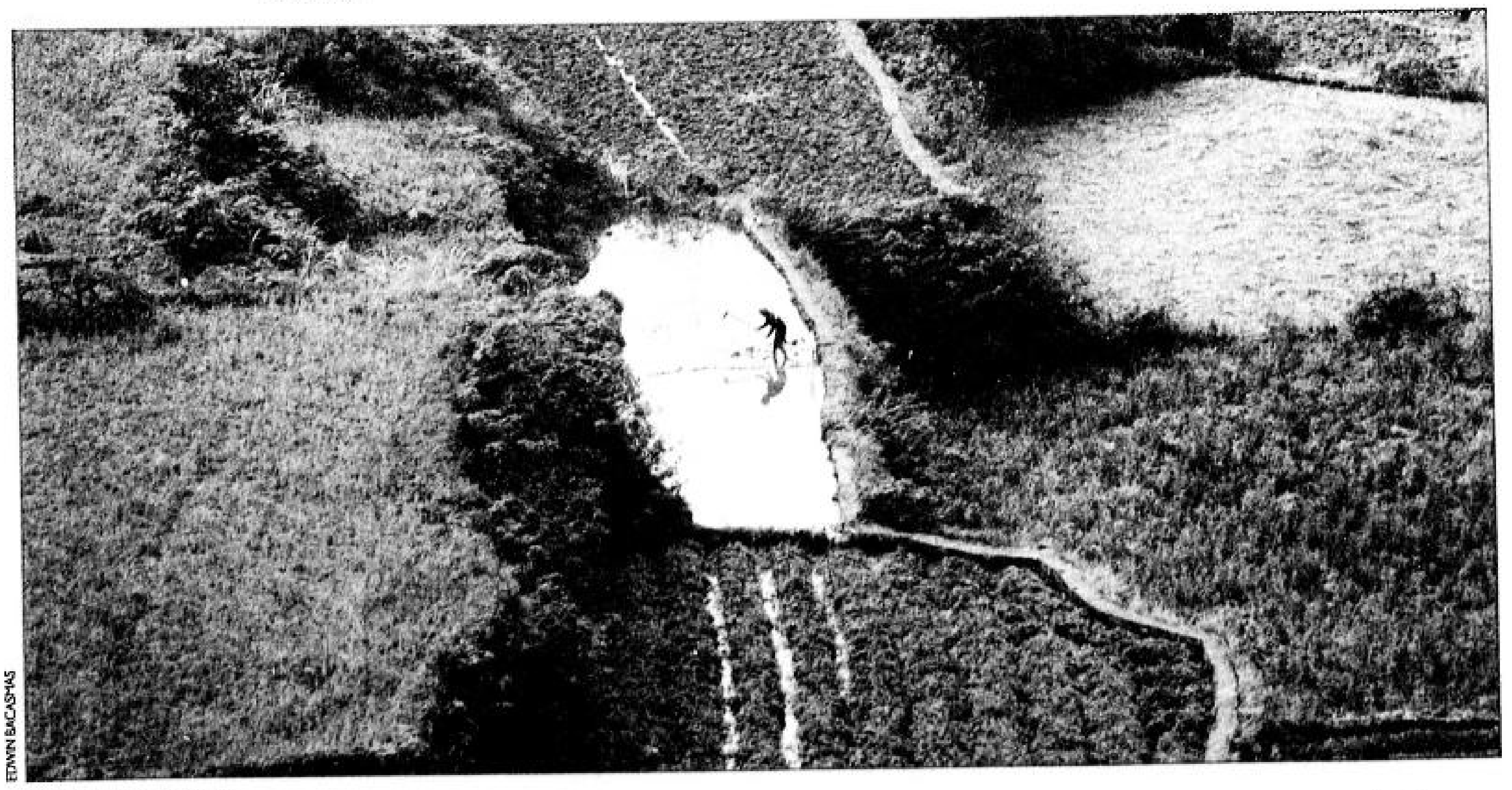
Brig. Gen. Ruben Rafael was promptly relieved as camp commander amid reports that the "Magdalo 4" were aided by fellow officers in escaping.

According to the AFP insiders, the explicit and implicit permission given to the rebel officers showed that senior officials were now sympathetic to their cause due to their complaints of "unprofessional" appointments.

The grumbling against the perceived political accommodations has reached a point where, a senior officer said, they would not support any move to oust the President but would do nothing to stop it.

The insiders, who asked not to be named for fear of reprisal, said Ms Arroyo's appointment of two of the "Hello Garci" generals, Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon and Rear Adm. Tirso Danga,

CRACKS/ A7



EDWIN BACASMAS

THE WAY IT WAS
Man with a hoe works on his farm in Bontoc, Mountain Province, the way his ancestors planted and tilled their ricefields. The simple life prevails and endures.

COMING HOME

Distortions are appalling

By Fernando del Mundo

(First of three parts)

Editor's Note: The writer is a former foreign correspondent, ex-Philippine bureau chief of United Press International and former head of the Mass Information Unit in the office of the Geneva-based United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, traveling to the world's trouble spots. He left the Philippines in 1991 and returned last year, subsequently joining the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

THERE'S A FRENCH SAYING THAT GOES, "THE more things change, the more they remain the same."

Coming home after being away for 14 years, I see all around a lot of changes—for the better, I am afraid, not for the worse, as many friends and relations say.

Certain things remain as they were, including the mindset of a people weary of what they see around them.

The most common perception is that times are

DISTORTIONS/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: At 2 p.m. yesterday, Tropical Depression "Agaton" was estimated based on satellite and surface data at 220 km east northeast of Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur with maximum sustained winds of 45 kph near the center. It is moving west northwest at 15 kph.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/01/22/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Isafp can bug phones, admits Senga

By Donna Z. Pazzibugan

FOLLOWING THE ADMISSION MADE BY HIS INtelligence unit head, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga yesterday took back his long-standing official line that the military had no wiretapping capability whatsoever.

Confronted by reporters about the disparity between his old position and the intelligence chief's belated admission, Senga replied that his insistence in past interviews and at Senate hearings last year that the military could not bug phones was simply a case of "wrong use of term."

The Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) was alleged to be the source of the "Hello Garci" tapes, which, according to the opposition, proved that President Macapagal-Arroyo cheated in the last elections.

Turnaround

After adamant denials by military officials, Isafp chief Brig. Gen. Marlu Quevedo made a sudden turnaround Friday and admitted to reporters that his agency had such equipment. But, he added, it was capable of bugging only landline phones and only when authorized by the courts.

Reached for comment yesterday, Senga made no attempt to deny Quevedo's statement.

Wrong use of term

"When they say there is no wiretapping, they're referring to cellular phones. But the (wiretapping of) landline phones is old technology," Senga said. "It's a wrong use of term. They did not elaborate, but they meant cellular phones, not landline phones."

Senga made no such distinctions in the past, not even when he stumped senators at his confirmation hearings by the Commission on Appointments.

No probe ordered

"There is no such thing as wiretapping capability," he said at a joint news conference with Senate President Franklin Drilon last Dec. 13.

Senga has so far not ordered any investigation of the wiretapping allegations, Quevedo said yesterday. He added, however, that the chief of staff had inquired about the status of the investigation of T/Sgt. Vidal Doble on corruption and immorality charges.

It was Doble who allegedly leaked the tapes to former National Bureau of Investigation Deputy Director Samuel Ong.

"We have talked," Quevedo said of Senga. "Anytime I'm waiting for his directive to start the investigation on wiretapping. But I'm thinking it might hamper the congressional hearings. And besides, we are not capable (of tapping cell phones)."

Villar alarmed

Meanwhile, Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs, said yesterday that the chamber would scrutinize the administration's proposed allocations for intelligence operations in the 2006 national budget.

Villar said he was alarmed by the number of public officials, military personnel, and even civilians who claimed being wiretapped by the Isafp.

Continue investigation

He said the Senate's select oversight committee on intelligence and confidential funds should also continue the investigation into Isafp's alleged wiretapping activities.

"Even I have been warned and informed by people to be among the number of politicians to be 'under surveillance,'" Villar said.

With a report from Philip C. Tubeza

Gonzalez: Pinoys more worried about missing fight than a coup

By Armand N. Nocum

PEOPLE ARE NOT SO MUCH worried about the possibility of a violent coup as they are about being prevented from watching the much-awaited boxing rematch today between Filipino Manny Pacquiao and Mexican Erik Morales.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said that after he warned of a possible destabilization move against the administration on Friday, people had been calling him to express alarm over how that would affect the television telecast of the most anticipated Pacquiao-Morales fight in Las Vegas.

He said people wished that the coup, if it had to happen, would not occur at such a critical time.

Speaking on his dwIZ radio program yesterday, Gonzalez said that he assured the callers that "both of us will watch Paquiao this Sunday."

Last Friday, Gonzalez said the critical period for a possible coup would be between midnight of Friday and today.

Asked if he was going to watch the fight in Las Vegas, Gonzalez said he would watch it here as he did not have the money to go to the United States.

The secretary said he was scheduled to attend a justice department seminar in Cagayan de Oro, but opted to send a representative so he would be free to watch the fight.

Yesterday, however, Gonzalez appeared to be taking back his warnings about a coup.

"The word I used was not coup, it was D-Day," he said, and blamed the media for putting a "twist" to the story.

It was "not only unfair but unnecessarily places the people in the wrong mood at this time," he said.

Gonzalez explained that while a coup was an "overt act," destabilization could be "a long process" with anti-Arroyo forces resorting to "guerrilla war tactics."

Still, he vouched for the veracity of the intelligence report he had received pointing to a planned move to destabilize the administration between Friday and today.

"Everything that I have read in that document had happened or is happening, but I repeat that there is no coup that is being talked about but the beginning of a plan to move against the government," he said.

Gonzalez said he could not say whether the report was "a hundred percent accurate" but noted that "the details mentioned there have already happened, for example the [detained mutineers'] plan to escape, which happened."

He said he had also received reports that the escape would be facilitated by a group "friendly" to the escaped soldiers and that too happened.

Gonzalez said he had his own "intelligence team" at the DOJ "aside from the information I get from normal intelligence channels."

JOAN BONDOC

CELEBRATION PART II
The Liberal Party is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year, with a twist. Because the party has been split by the legitimacy question hanging over President Macapagal-Arroyo's head, half its members belonging to the faction headed by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza celebrated earlier. Yesterday, the faction led by Senate President Franklin Drilon had its turn with former Senate President Jovito Salonga (center) as its special guest. In the earlier celebration, Salonga had someone read his speech to the Atienza group. Party members flank Salonga and Drilon.

The Republic of the Philippines

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Each Series of Eligible Bonds*

to submit, in an auction for each series of Eligible Bonds, offers to exchange:

- 3-Year Eligible Bonds of each series for 3-Year Philippine peso-denominated Bonds due 2009 (the "3-Year Benchmark Bonds")
- 5-Year Eligible Bonds of each series for 5-Year Philippine peso-denominated Bonds due 2011 (the "5-Year Benchmark Bonds")
- 7-Year Eligible Bonds of each series for 7-Year Philippine peso-denominated Bonds due 2013 (the "7-Year Benchmark Bonds")

The 3-Year Benchmark Bonds, the 5-Year Benchmark Bonds and the 7-Year Benchmark bonds are collectively referred to as the Benchmark Bonds.

THE INVITATION TO EXCHANGE 3-YEAR ELIGIBLE BONDS WILL EXPIRE AT 4:00 P.M. (MANILA TIME) ON FRIDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2006, UNLESS EXTENDED OR EARLIER TERMINATED.

THE INVITATION TO EXCHANGE 5-YEAR AND 7-YEAR ELIGIBLE BONDS WILL EXPIRE AT 4:00 P.M. (MANILA TIME) ON FRIDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2006, UNLESS EXTENDED OR EARLIER TERMINATED.

The Republic of the Philippines ("the Republic") hereby invites owners of Eligible Bonds to submit offers to exchange Eligible Bonds for Benchmark Bonds, broken down into three subgroups as referred to above (the "Invitation"). The terms and conditions of the exchange offer are set forth in the Offering Circular dated 18 January 2006, copies of which may be obtained from the website of the Bureau of the Treasury of the Philippines. which can be accessed through the Internet addresses www.treasury.gov.ph, or from a Government Securities Eligible Dealer ("GSED"). Interested owners of Eligible Bonds should contact a GSED for any questions they may have.

The purpose of the Invitation is to create new series of Benchmark Bonds which will be larger in size than existing series of peso bonds. Benchmark Bonds are intended to be more liquid and therefore, would trade in the secondary market more efficiently. By creating Benchmark Bonds, the Republic aims to improve markets for investors and thereby lower its borrowing costs over time. The Invitation is part of a broader program of the Republic to manage its liabilites.

This announcement is not an offer or a solicitation of offers. The Invitation is made solely pursuant, and subject to, the Offering Circular. When you make your investment decision, you should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in the Offering Circular and on any further announcements or communication that may be expressly authorized by the Republic. The Republic has not authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different. The Invitation does not constitute, and may not be used in connection with, an offer or solicitation by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation is not permitted by law or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation.

* A full listing of the Eligible Bonds can be found in the Offering Circular dated 18 January 2006 which is available on the website of the Bureau of Treasuryof the Philippines (www.treasury.gov.ph)

Immaturity would hinder unicameral body – Remulla

By Norman Bordadora

THE PHILIPPINES IS STILL TOO IMMATURE politically to be able to support a unicameral legislature composed of locally elected members, according to opposition Rep. Gilbert Remulla.

Remulla, a Nacionalista Party member and a scion of the influential Cavite-based Remulla political clan, said the country still needed a Senate composed of members with national mandates, a fact that supposedly ensures that the senators would not be limited by parochial interests.

"I don't think that it's time for the country to do away with the Senate. Politics in the country is still too immature and congressmen (who will be the only members of a unicameral parliament) are too weighed down by parochial concerns," Remulla told the weekly Kapihan sa Newsdesk media forum yesterday.

He said congressmen might be too focused on the problems of their local legislative districts to be able to decide what national laws needed to be passed.

"Senators, I believe, have a higher level of independence, having been elected nationally. With a national mandate, a senator doesn't have a particular constituency and can't be weighed down by parochial concerns," Remulla said.

The House committee on constitutional amendments last week adopted a working draft for a proposed new Constitution, containing the amendments proposed by the ruling coalition such as the shift from a presidential to a parliamentary system with a unicameral legislature.

If the ruling coalition in Congress succeeds in passing the proposed amendments by way of a constituent assembly, it would result in the abolition of the Senate.

But Remulla said the House would be hard-pressed to meet its schedule to amend the Charter considering the Senate's indifference to the proposal for the two chambers to convene themselves into a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution.

Oil firms raise prices yet again by 50¢/liter

SUCCUMBING TO HIGH INTERNATIONAL OIL PRICES, local oil firms again raised the prices of their gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos a liter and cooking gas by 55 centavos a kilogram.

Caltex Phil. Inc. implemented the price adjustment at 12:01 a.m. today, followed by Petron Corp. and Eastern Petroleum Corp. at 6 a.m.

Total (Phil.) Corp., Seaoil Petroleum Corp. and Flying V will increase their prices at 12:01 a.m. tomorrow.

Officials of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Unioil Petroleum Phil. Inc. said that while they would definitely boost their prices, their respective managements had not decided yet on the timing of the implementation.

Asked why prices were rising again after only a week, Eastern Petroleum president Fernando Martinez said there was no other reason but the extremely high prices of oil in the world market.

"We face the reality of being dependent on the international pricing of petroleum products, both crude and finished which, in the last three weeks, were on a roll due to mounting tensions in Iran and Nigeria," Martinez said in an interview yesterday.

The Department of Energy itself had expressed concern over what was currently taking place in Iran and Nigeria as the uncertainty created in the market was pushing world prices up.

Abigail L. Ho

Papal nuncio moving on to Israel, Cyprus

THE VATICAN LAST NIGHT ANnounced the transfer of Archbishop Antonio Franco, the apostolic nuncio to the Philippines since 1999, to Israel and Cyprus.

The news was announced in the Vatican at noon on Saturday, Rome time (7 p.m. yesterday in Manila). It was simultaneously released in Manila by Msgr. John Mendez, charge d'affaires at the Philippine Nunciature.

No definite timetable was set for Franco's departure from the Philippines, or for his installation as new nuncio to Israel and Cyprus. The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' National Office of Mass Media said this could take place sometime next month.

Pope Benedict XVI did not state any reason for the change. There was also no announcement about who would succeed Franco.

Jerome Aning

Comelec looking for new voting machines

By Jerome Aning

ABALOS

UNFAZED BY A BOTCHED BILLION-peso vote-counting machine deal and mounting calls for its top officials to resign, the Commission on Elections is now casting its eye on a new electronic voting system.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said Friday he would ask his Indian counterpart for tips on how to find the appropriate electronic voting technology and install it in time for the congressional and local elections next year.

Abalos will play host to B. B. Tandon, the Chief Election Commissioner of India on Jan. 25. Apart from conferring with Comelec officials, Tando will meet with local lawmakers ,and journalists.

Tandon will be accompanied by, among others, Rajesh Aggarwal, director of the Secretariat of the Election Commission of India, who will demonstrate the use of the same electronic voting machines used with great success in the recent Indian elections, Abalos said.

"Much has been said about the successful conduct of electronic voting in India," Abalos said. "We are looking forward to seeing first-hand how the Indian system operates."

Abalos said Filipino election officials will "compare notes" with the Indian visitors and see if India's electronic voting system could be adopted by the Comelec.

"There is much to be gained from the sharing of knowledge in this way, and this will be very valuable input into our plans to modernize the elections scheduled for May 2007," Abalos said.

He said computerization improved the credibility and efficiency of the election process in India, which has more than 670 million voters.

Abalos earlier called on Congress to make up its mind soon on whether it wanted the Comelec's modernization program to go on or not. He warned that time was running out.

The country's election modernization program foundered in 2004 after the Supreme Court, citing bidding irregularities, nullified the P1.3-billion deal entered into by the Comelec for the purchase of vote-counting machines.

The court also struck down the Comelec's program for transmitting election results electronically.

The nullified deal and allegations that a Comelec commissioner had rigged the 2004 polls in favor of President Macapagal-Arroyo had resulted in calls for the resignation and prosecution of Abalos and other top election officials.

Opposition wants snap polls, not coup

By Norman Bordador

A FORMER SENATOR YESTERday denied the United Opposition (Uno) was connected in any way to alleged new coup plots against the Arroyo administration.

Speaking at a weekly breakfast forum in Quezon City, Vicente Sotto III said he and former senators Gregorio Honasan and Tessie Aquino-Oreta met with evangelist Bro. Eddie Villanueva recently and they agreed that the best way out of the country's political crisis was to hold a snap election, not a bloody coup.

Sotto protested statements by administration officials linking the opposition, particularly politicians associated with former President Joseph Estrada, to fresh rumors of a coup in the wake of the escape of four junior military officers involved in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

The opposition was being "conveniently used as scapegoats" by administration officials in their disclosures of alleged new plots to bring down Ms Arroyo's administration by force, Sotto said.

"It is safe to say that the great majority, if not all, of the members of the opposition forces are for snap elections," Sotto added.

Sotto, Honasan and Oreta campaigned for the late Fernando Poe Jr. in the 2004 election. Villanueva ran separately for president.

Honasan, who had led coup attempts against President Corazon Aquino, was himself linked to the Oakwood mutiny and was among those who negotiated with the mutineers to give up.

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CROSSWINDS
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CORPORATION

Pinoys can make $2,000/mo under med tourism plan

By Christian V. Esguerra

DO YOU SPEAK FLUENT French, Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Bahasa or any foreign language outside of English?

Add a little charm and a dash of confidence and you could easily earn at least $2,000 (about P100,000) a month without having to leave the Philippines.

The job will soon be offered by the newly launched Philippine Medical Tourism Program, an ambitious government initiative to obtain a slice of the estimated $20 billion-a-year global medical tourism industry.

By March, hospitals accredited under the so-called concierge program will start hiring valets cum interpreters to accommodate foreign patients seeking treatment and recreation in the country, according to Undersecretary Jade del Mundo, the health official in charge of medical tourism.

Those who qualify should be college-educated Filipinos, male or female, aged 20 years and above, and who are fluent in at least one other foreign language besides English, Del Mundo said.

"There's no age limit. What's important is that the person's willing and able," he said.

Training will focus on dealing with foreigners based on knowledge of their cultures and helping ensure that they enjoy their stay in the Philippines.

Del Mundo, who based the idea for the program on the experiences of other countries that had made a success of medical tourism, said the system would be operational by June.

Each accredited hospital would need some 2,000 escorts. Officials expect an estimated 4,000 patients to come for elective procedures like liposuction, or life-saving treatments like heart bypass surgery.

Del Mundo said an escort would be expected to service at least two patients each month, each of whom would pay around $1,000 for the service.

The concierge system is expected to earn around $80 million for the medical tourism program each year.

Del Mundo said medical valet work is no easy task. It requires skill and a lot of patience and commitment.

It begins when a valet is called by the International Patients Assistance Center stationed in each accredited hospital. The center receives inquiries from foreign patients and refers them to valet/interpreters who then take over when an agreement is reached.

He will then make the arrangements for the required medical procedure, including travel and hotel accommodations. He will collect the patient at the airport and will be available for the patient, even for rest and recreation trips.

More important, the valet would have to be at the bedside of the patient, acting primarily as an interpreter.

Del Mundo said the language barrier would be most critical among patients from France, China, Korea and Japan.

Slots for valet/interpreters will soon be available in the 16 private and government hospitals registered under the medical tourism program.

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
GUAGUA, PAMPANGA

January 20, 2006

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (PELCO II) WITH OFFICE ADDRESS AT SAN ROQUE, GUAGUA, PAMPANGA IS INVITING ELIGIBLE BIDDERS FOR A GROUP INSURANCE OF ITS FOUR HUNDRED & FOUR PERMANENT EMPLOYEES.

You are therefore invited for the pre-qualification to bid on January 26, 2006 (Thursday), 09:00 A.M. at PELCO II Board Room San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga wherein there will be an open discussion in preparation for the bidding proper scheduled on February 2, 2006 (Thursday) at 10:00 A.M.

Please be informed that non-attendance on scheduled pre-qualification to bid is an automatic disqualification for those bidders who wants to join the bidding.

For more information, please see Ms. Ana Lea N. Narciso at PELCO II Office or dial number at (045) 900-0611, 900-2650.

(Sgd) ANA LEA N. NARCISO
PBAC Chairperson

(PDI-January 22 & 23, 2006)

Largest call center looks south

By Jerome Aning

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST CALL center and outsourcing firm has gone to Zamboanga City in search of agents to beef up its expansion program in the Philippines, indicating that non-Tagalog speaking Filipinos have an equal opportunity to be hired, according to the Department of Labor and Employment.

Labor Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas said yesterday representatives of Cyber City Teleservices Ltd. were in Zamboanga City recently to recruit female call center agents to fill manpower requirements for its outsourcing operations.

CCTL is a leading provider of customer relationship management (CRM) services and solutions, including inbound and outbound offshore call center and business process outsourcing (BPO) services. It is based in New Jersey and California, USA.

Today, CCTL is the largest CRM call center in the Philippines employing almost 5,000 agents in its operations at the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga and its affiliate G-Com Ltd. in Davao City, Sto. Tomas said.

She said CCTL representatives interviewed applicants in Zamboanga City on Jan. 18-20. Those who passed the interview will be trained and assigned to the call centers in either Pampanga or Davao.

The recruitment was held at the Public Employment Service Office in Zamboanga City.

The DOLE chief said CCTL representatives planned to return to Zamboanga in February and March to recruit more call center agents.

"This is an indication of the expanding call center industry in the country," she said.

Sto. Tomas said that despite the political noise, the Philippines remained a favorite among US call center and outsourcing firms due to the Filipinos' knowledge of English and the American culture.

A study in 2004 showed that the Philippines ranked sixth in the offshore location attractiveness index and was the fourth choice location in Asia after India, China and Malaysia.

There are currently more than 50 contact center outsourcing providers in the Philippines. More call center and BPO firms are projected to be setting up operations in the country in the near future.

Workers got P1.7B in CBA pacts – DOLE

SOME 22,534 WORKERS NAtionwide received almost P1.7 billion in economic packages in their collective bargaining agreements (CBA) following the intervention of the Department of Labor and Employment to resolve labor-management disputes and prevent work stoppages in 2005.

In a report to Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, the National Conciliation and Mediation Board said the CBA benefits granted to workers resulted from preventive mediation and the settlement of strikes and lockouts, including the resolution of disputes before these could erupt into full-blown strikes.

NCMB is tasked with undertaking preventive mediation and the settlement of strikes and lockouts.

Undersecretary for Labor Relations Manuel Imson said that under the preventive mediation component, a total of 7,646 workers received more than P130 million in CBA benefits.

Mediation provides for intervention by a neutral third party, the conciliator-mediator, who advises the parties and offers solutions or alternatives to the problems with the end in view of assisting them towards voluntarily reaching their own mutually acceptable settlements. *Jerome Aning*

Rosales: No politics in CBCP changes

MANILA ARCHBISHOP GAUdencio Rosales yesterday said there was no politics involved in the removal of Msgr. Hernando Coronel as secretary general and spokesperson of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Speaking over the Church-run Radio Veritas, Rosales said that Coronel, who belongs to the Manila archdiocese, had been only "lent" to the CBCP a decade ago.

Rosales said that as ecclesiastical administrator of the Manila See, he had the prerogative to recall Coronel, adding, "He was given permission [to serve at the CBCP] and he can be recalled to serve the diocese."

The archbishop also disclosed that Coronel may be assigned to one of Manila's parishes. The Manila archdiocese, which covers the cities of Manila, Pasay, Mandaluyong and the municipality of San Juan, has about 80 parishes.

"In truth, [Coronel] has never been a parish priest. As a minister [to the faithful], he should experience being a parish priest. He knows about this and we've already talked about it," Rosales said.

Rosales stressed that Coronel was never found "wanting" as a CBCP official. He hinted that Coronel's early departure would, at the very least, signify "the change of hands" at the CBCP. *Jerome Aning*

Artists to be feted

ELIZALDE

THE ALL NATIONS Women's Group will kill two birds with one stone when it holds its annual ball on Jan. 24 to honor Filipino artists who have brought international recognition to the country and at the same time raise funds to finance the scholarship of poor but deserving Metro Manila students.

To be recognized are dancer Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, school directress of Ballet Manila; pianist Raul Sunico, dean of the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music, and painter Federico Alcuaz.

The Champagne Black and White Ball will begin at 7 p.m. in the Main Lounge of the Manila Polo Club in Forbes Park, Makati City.

Event chair is Lolita Escobar Mirpuri assisted by ANWG president Ditas Posadas, Cristina Caedo, Gov. Baby E. Luat, Dr. Edna Azurin, Dr. Jana V. Mora and members of the executive board. The ANWG counts among its numbers members of the diplomatic corps and their distaff side.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
No. 2006-002 g

BIDDING FOR THE LEASE OF ADDITIONAL WAREHOUSE
(FOR THE USE OF MOTOR POOL AND SUPPLY UNITS)

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), through the Corporate Operating Budget (COB) 2005, intends to apply the sum of Php4,320,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Lease for two (2) years of Additional Warehouse for the use of the Motor Pool and Supply Units. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

PhilHealth now invites Bids from eligible Bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Bidding for the Lease of Additional Warehouse for the use of the Motor Pool and Supply Units, with the following specifications:

1. Location
The location of the warehouse shall be within one (1) kilometer radius from the Citystate Centre. The area must not be prone to flooding.

2. Basic Requirements
2.1 Floor area : 1,000 sq.m. to 1,200 sq.m. It may be a single unit, or two (2) separate units with a total area of 1,000 sq.m. to 1,200 sq.m.
2.2 Flooring : Concrete Finish
2.3 Electricity : With Power supply and serviceable electrical lighting
2.4 Water Supply & Drainage System: With Water supply and existing/working drainage system
2.5 Office Space : With existing office space (enclosed structure)

3. Other Conditions
3.1 Free moving-in for a period of thirty (30) days.
3.2 Major repair shall be undertaken by the lessor.
3.3 Title must be free from liens and encumbrances.
3.4 Lessor guarantees peaceful, continued and uninterrupted use of the premises, with full beneficial use of the leased premises.
3.5 Repair and washing of vehicles shall be allowed at least in the one-half portion of the warehouse.
3.6 The lessor shall perform the following:
3.6.1 Termite Control : once a year
3.6.2 Pest and Rodent Control : every three (3) months

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of the Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino Citizens/Sole Proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino Citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such after the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the **Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees (OSBAC)** in the Central Office of PhilHealth, Room 1107, 11th floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Bgy. Oranbo, Pasig City, and inspect the Bidding Documents from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from January 13 - 27, 2006 at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Php3,000.00 cash. The prospective Bidder or his authorized representative shall receive the Bidding Documents personally.

The PhilHealth will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on January 30, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. at the **OSBAC Conference Room** (Rm. 1106), PhilHealth Central Office, 11th floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Bgy. Oranbo, Pasig City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the **OSBAC Conference Room on or before February 13, 2006, 10:30 a.m.** The official time shall be based on the wall clock located at the **OSBAC Conference Room.** Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on February 13, 2006, 10:30 a.m. at OSBAC Conference Room. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

PhilHealth shall require the prospective bidders to submit copy of contracts whether on going, completed or awarded but not yet started with the relevant period of CY 2004 and CY 2005.

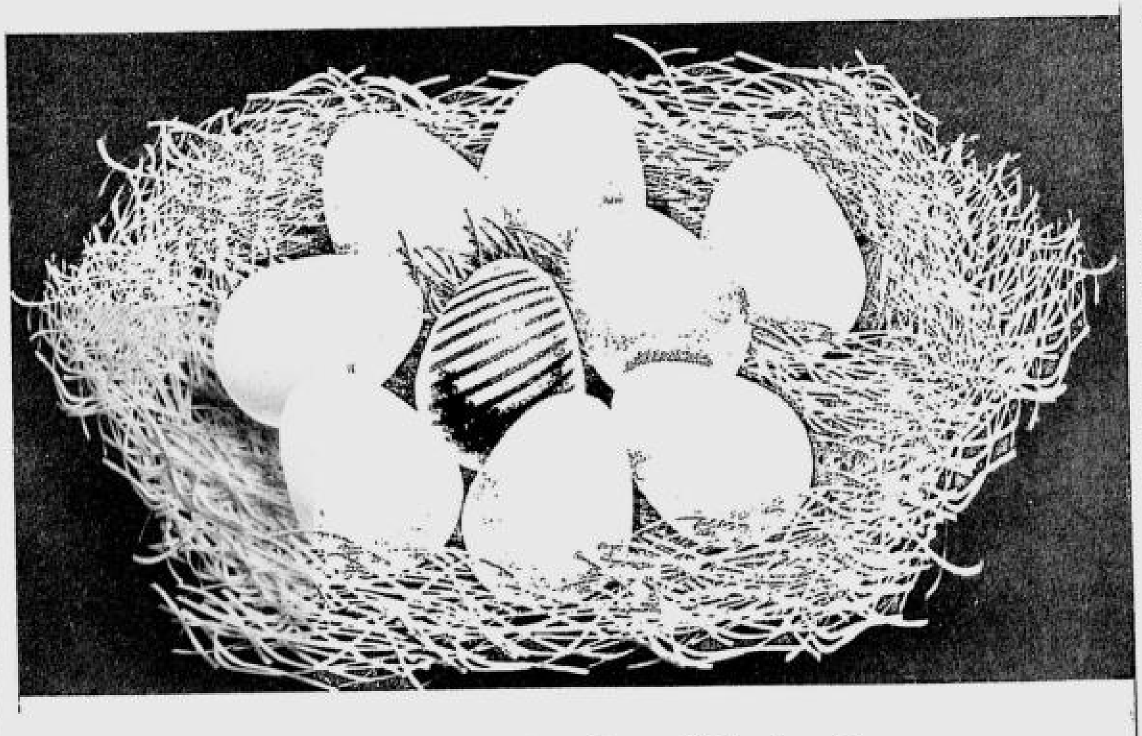
The PhilHealth reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees in the Central Office
Mr. Joseph O. Vergara
Rm. 1107, 11th Floor Citystate Centre
709 Shaw Blvd., Bgy. Oranbo, Pasig City
Tel. (02) 637-9999 locals 1128, 1130 and 1830
E-mail add: osbac@philhealth.gov.ph
Facsimile No. 637-4735

(Sgd.) ATTY. VALENTIN C. GUANIO
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services

(PDI-Jan. 12 & 22, 2006)

B E D I F F E R E N T



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123 Paseo de Roxas, 1260 Makati City, Philippines • Trunkline (632) 892-4011 to 25 • Telefax: (632) 813-4466 • E-mail: www.aim.edu

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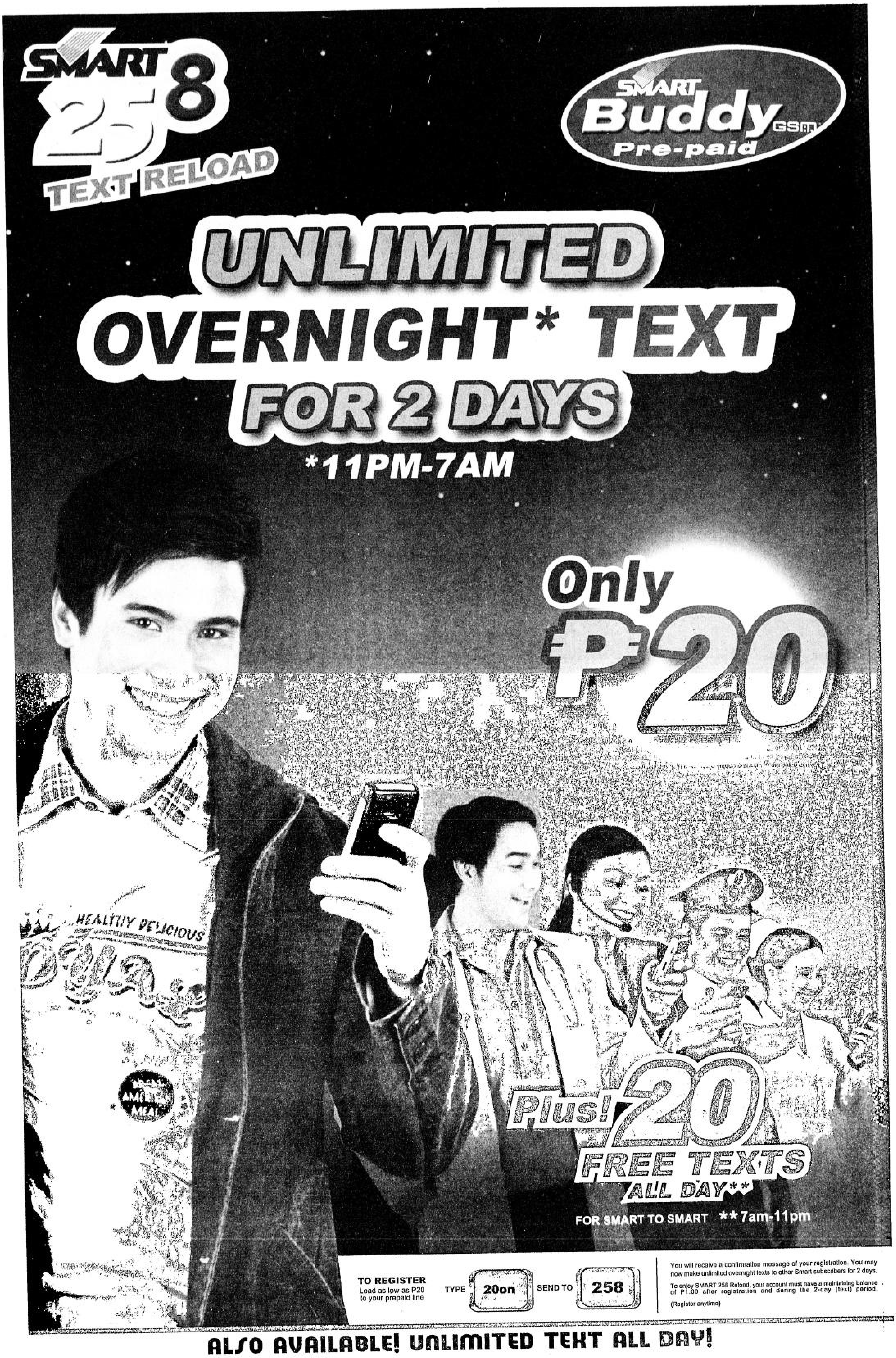

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Where's GMA army?

INCOMING PRESIDENTIAL CHIEF of Staff Michael Defensor's warning that Malacañang was ready to fight "fire with wire" if rebel soldiers used violence to depose President Macapagal-Arroyo has raised questions about the nature of the force the Palace could use to protect her.

A US Embassy report to Washington in April last year spoke of Ms Arroyo possibly having armed supporters of her own outside the military.

The embassy said in the report that Ms Arroyo's public support had faded and that it had been told elements in the Armed Forces planned to move and force her to step down.

"Information on Macapagal-Arroyo's hardcore supporters, including how well armed or organized [they] are, also is imprecise," said the embassy report. "Some reporting suggests, however, that Macapagal-Arroyo may depend on these groups rather than (her) unreliable military to defend her government."

In October, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos told reporters about a supposedly private armed group, called the "Black Army," allegedly maintained and funded by supporters of Ms Arroyo to protect her against coup attempts.

Marcos said her office had received reports that the group had secret training camps in Central Luzon.

Malacañang denied the existence of such a group.

Palace security tightened

From page A1

Armed Forces will be true to its duty and loyal to the chain of command and she remains focused on doing the job at hand," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a radio interview.

Bunye said that while there might be some junior officers who were either "disgruntled or whose idealism was misdirected," the majority of the Armed Forces were still loyal to Ms Arroyo.

"Our people are tired of this talk of destabilization. If there are any groups that will attempt to destabilize the government, they will not get any support and they will not succeed," he said.

Time for diversions

Presidential adviser on political affairs Gabriel Claudio said no military uprising led by junior officers had succeeded in this country.

Despite the tightened security, there was no sign of any brewing emergency.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita was away in Baguio attending a wedding, a Palace source said.

Some looked for diversions elsewhere. The INQUIRER yesterday afternoon received a text message from Bunye which said: "I am in Las Vegas."

A number of Filipino dignitaries have flown to the US "Sin City" to watch the showdown between Manny Pacquiao and Mexico's Erik Morales.

Despite convening the National Security Council Friday following the escape of the "Magdalo 4" Army mutineers from Fort Bonifacio, Ms Arroyo was far from pushing the panic button, according to Palace executives.

Bunye said her main concerns were the upcoming Council of State meeting, the passage of the 2006 budget, and the anticipated increase in the value-added tax from 10 to 12 percent next month.

Defensor himself played down talk of a coup and said Ms Arroyo would resume her provincial trips this week.

But Defensor, speaking on radio, said the administration "cannot afford to be soft" with those trying to destabilize the government.

"If they use force ... we will need to use force," he said.

A war freak

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Defensor's warning would only harden opposition to the administration.

"That is a statement of a war freak and it does not calm down tensions. On the contrary, it stokes the fires of resentment among the people," Pimentel said.

Distortions are appalling

From page A1

tough and the living is not easy.

Intimations of a failed state, of its imminent demise are a repeated lament.

Newspapers routinely report Filipinos fleeing daily in droves, seeking opportunities overseas. The figure is estimated to be close to a million each year.

"There is just no opportunity here, no hope," says a young doctor.

She says many friends, physicians like her, are taking up nursing—a sure way to get a green card in the United States.

There are those who do not quite agree.

Fiona M. Teoxon, 28, an investment counselor, says we have reached rock bottom and we have nowhere else to go but up. She exudes so much optimism. Hearing her discourse about the possibilities for economic growth was like listening to a talk about a new El Dorado, of mind-boggling riches to be made.

To be here and happy

She says she had been to China and Hong Kong. She likened the places she had visited there to a pressure cooker. "People I met had long faces. They seemed to be always in a hurry. Here, looking around, you see smiling faces. I would rather be here and be happy."

Lawyer Alex Lacson says he and his wife, also a lawyer, and three children were ready to throw in the towel in 2000 and join the Filipino exodus to greener pastures.

"We were not seeing any sign of progress," he says. Emblematic of the tattered economy at that time was the peso, which had devalued over a three-year period from 26.30 to a dollar to 54:1.

"There appeared to be no hope for us, or our children, even though we were doing quite well in our law practice," he says.

"We formulated a question: 'Will the Philippines progress in 20 years?' If the answer is yes, we will stay, otherwise, we will leave."

12 little things

The verdict isn't out yet, but the 40-year-old lawyer has not stopped wracking his brain in his search for a silver lining in the Philippine horizon. He has come up with a book, "Twelve little things every Filipino can do to help our country."

I have a nephew who I thought had a promising chance to live and work in Europe but gave it all up. He returned to Manila, picked up his guitar and, in less than a year, became a darling of the acoustic song loving generation.

On the tennis court where I play, there's a one-armed ball boy who is paying his own way through high school. His handicap hasn't prevented him from playing with Rafael Nadal's flair and earning off anyone who wants to test how wicked his forehand is.

Strange, but at the infamous 168 mall in Divisoria, Chinese who could barely speak Filipino are doing roaring business. They are transforming Divisoria—once the equivalent of a primitive Sudanese souk in Khartoum—to a nifty place to shop. Most of these chinese haggle with Filipinos using a calculator. They are probably illegal immigrants, like the Filipino TNTs in Europe or the United States.

Yes. There's a place in the sun here for those who crave it and work for it. No, we're not going down the drain.

A different world on TV

It is not the country portrayed on international TV networks that is a source of embarrassment to Filipinos overseas.

How explain that Payatas or similar such smoky mountain isn't exactly what awaits wayward kids clapped in crowded jails with hardened criminals, as CNN recently suggested?

The distortion is simply appalling.

When civil war broke out in Cote d'Ivoire several years ago, the images I saw on TV were straight out of Black Hawk Down.

Apart from the occasional violence, the world's premier cocoa producer wasn't about to go up in flames, as I found out during a trip to West Africa later.

The capital, Abidjan, was a peaceful, thoroughly modern city with the Parisian pretensions of its former French colonial masters.

It is the same distorted image of the Philippines that is brought to living rooms overseas, courtesy of CNN and BBC.

One good thing came out of the Oakwood mutiny in 2003. It showed the international news audience that there were areas in Manila pretty much like Orange County in California.

It takes your breathe away

The mushrooming enclaves of skyscrapers and modernistic shopping malls, the electric trains, the network of overpass and underpass complexes in this crazy quilt urban sprawl simply take your breath away.

A trip from Diliman to Makati used to take me anywhere from one to two hours. On a quiet day, you can actually zip the distance in 25 minutes by car, about the same time on an air-conditioned MRT.

If you want to escape the city, there's the resurfaced North and South expressways to get you conveniently out of town. In the metropolis itself, more streets have been opened up. Drive from UP to Cubao using the Kalayaan route and you're in Aurora boulevard in 10 minutes or less.

Makati has metamorphosed into a thoroughly cosmopolitan city that has the air of Chicago. Buildings there continue to soar. They weren't as tall a decade ago. Rockwell Drive reminds me of a tree-shaded European street adorned with tulips in spring time and geraniums in summer.

This bastion of business and finance is being replicated elsewhere in areas that used to be sleepy backwaters in Quezon City, Pasig, Mandaluyong and Taguig.

Upscale malls

There's ostentatious wealth around to make the eyes blink.

Upscale malls are going up all the time, offering Gucci, Bulgari and Louis Vuitton you used to find only if you go to boutiques in Hong Kong, London or Paris.

It took a while to catch up, but some movie houses now observe screening hours, closing doors at the start of the film, and selling tickets only to seating capacity.

Pubs and restaurants in Greenbelt Park, crammed with yuppies, are swinging in the evenings. There, you see some of the world's most beautiful women. Wearing micro-minis, low-cut jeans that bare midriffs, they seem more liberated than they were before.

They should be the envy of the women of Afghanistan in flowing head-to-toe gowns called burqa, or the housewives walking alongside their husbands who were riding donkeys in Sudan's Darfur desert, or the lovely ladies of Iran slipping quietly all wrapped up in their chadors after having a beauty treatment in a salon to escape the prying eyes of religious police and attend a private party.

Sipping coffee, wine

Sipping coffee has become fashionable among the young. They while away their time in cafés that offer real cappuccino and machiatto at a pinch of the cost in a European bistro.

Beer remains popular among tipplers but increasingly you hear Filipinos ordering merlots and cabernets in restaurants for aperitifs.

Around the leafy UP campus, cycling enthusiasts pedal away in the early mornings wearing colorful headgear and jerseys you'd think they're part of a lost Tour de France peloton. It wasn't very long ago that ragtag shorts and T-shirts were the norm.

It seems obscene talking about these First World trappings in a country where the recurrent refrain is of people with hungry stomachs wallowing in misery. Hearing priests and politicians despair about this, we're in a real rut.

(Tomorrow: The best and worst of times)

They're dying to receive donations of 'used' coffin

From page A1

people (OP) mostly in Metro Manila's urban poor communities, has appealed for a most unusual type of donation—slightly used coffins.

"It's neither a joke nor a gimmick," said COSE executive director Ma. Socorro Suero.

Donated coffins would augment the burial fund of more than 3,300 COSE members, aged 55 and older, who belong to at least 41 organized urban poor communities.

First come, first served

The 16-year-old COSE would get "an average of 10 to 12 caskets a year from families whose loved ones were cremated. Even friends of COSE from other NGOs call us to donate caskets," Suero said.

Due to the limited number of donated coffins, departed members would have to avail themselves of the coffins on a "first come, first served" basis.

COSE bats for a community-based approach that allows older people to organize and help each other through self-help programs.

Each member contributes P11 a month to a burial fund so that when he or she dies, the family or declared dependent gets P7,000 for funeral expenses, including a coffin.

The burial fund currently stands at more than P400,000.

"If you do the math, this amount is not enough. The coalition has targeted at least P300,000 through fund-raising activities to supplement the burial fund," Suero said.

The burial fund, which was put up 11 years ago, "is always seeking contributions and novel ways to raise funds," she added.

Storage

For instance, COSE has entered into a memorandum of agreement with a local funeral parlor for the safekeeping of donated caskets.

"So when an older person dies, he or she is assured of funeral services," Suero said.

Aside from doing advocacy work on OP-related issues and concerns, COSE also provides home care services to sick and frail members.

Doing the work are more than 100 community gerontologists or CGs, care specialists for older people whom the coalition had trained for this purpose.

"The home care program is not unique and could easily be duplicated anywhere where there are groups with a common desire for better health care," Suero said.

Triumphs, disappointments

The coalition also offers counseling services to help its members adapt positively to what it calls "the triumphs and disappointments of old age."

In one COSE gathering, former Senate President Jovito Salonga stressed, "Aging need not and should not be a time of despair."

The old folks' "sunset may lack some of the brightness of their sunrise, but it has its own special beauty," said the 85-year-old statesman.

In 2000, there were 3 million Filipinos aged 65 and above, according to the National Statistics Office. By 2030, the elderly would reach 10.4 million, according to NSO projections.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
For the Supply and Delivery of IT Equipment and Software

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*, through its 2005 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the sum of *P2,786,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract *for the supply and delivery of IT Equipment and Software*, as follows:

Lot	Particulars	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	SOURCE OF FUNDS
1	BACK-UP SYSTEM (Server, Tape Drive, and Back-up/Restore Software)	1,400,000.00	GOP
2	14 UNITS Personal Computers	490,000.00	GOP
3	Lotus Notes Domino R7	384,000.00	Foreign Grant, British Government
4	DB2 UDB V8.2	512,000.00	Foreign Grant, British Government

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of IT Equipment and Software*. Delivery is required within 30 days from receipt of notarized contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P2,000.00. The method of payment will be *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *January 31, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.* at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City* on February 14, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in either of the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One Percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *February 14, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.* at the NFA Boardroom, *10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity - NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Contact Persons - Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama
Address - 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City
Telephone No. - (632) 712-0454
e-mail address - vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph
Fax No. - (632) 712-0454
Website - www.nfa.gov.ph

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI-January 15 & 22, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Davao del Norte
CITY OF TAGUM

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Reference/Solicitation No. __________

The Local Government of Tagum City thru its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of:

1. ONE (1) UNIT BRAND NEW MIDI BUS, 37 SEATERS 2X3 INDIVIDUAL BACKREST WITH LEATHERATE UPHOLSTERY, FULLY AIRCONDITIONED 4X2-6WHEELERS WITH COMPLETE TOOLS/TIRE WRENCH AND HYDRAULIC JACK (20 TONS CAPACITY) AND ONE (1) SPARE TIRE.

The approved budget is **FOUR MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P4,200,000.00)** chargeable against LGU Development Loan.

Calendar of Activities:

Particulars	*Date/Time*		*Venue*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	: January 30, 2006		BAC Secretariat
2. Pre-Bid Conference	: January 31, 2006	-2:00 P.M.	ABC Conference Hall
3. Dropping of Bids	: February 13, 2006	-8:00-12:00 Noon	BAC Secretariat
4. Opening of Bids	: February 13, 2006	-2:00-5:00 P.M.	ABC Conference Hall
5. Bid Evaluation	: February 14, 2006		ABC Conference Hall
6. Post Qualication	: February 15, 2006		ABC Conference Hall
7. Notice of Award	: February 16, 2006		ABC Conference Hall

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount fixed by the Bids and Awards Committee. All bids shall be accompanied with a bid security equivalent to 1% for CASH BOND based on the TOTAL AMOUNT of the APPROVED BUDGET of the items.

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat office at telephone numbers, 084-218-8639, 084-218-2349 or visit the BAC Secretariat Office at 2nd floor of SP Building, Bonifacio St., Tagum City.

The Bids and Awards Committee a.) reserves the right to reject any or all bids; b.) waive any defect or formality; c.) declare failure of bidding if there is *prima facie* evidence of any prohibited act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies any or all bidding procedures to the disadvantage of the government; d.) assumes no obligation whatsoever to indemnify the bidder(s) for any expense that they may incur in the preparation of their bids; and e.) to accept only such bid(s) established to be the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ROLAND G. TUMANDA
Acting City Legal Officer
BAC-Chairman

(PDI–Jan. 15 & 22, 2006)

sbma
PROCUREMENT & PROPERTY
MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic
Bay Freeport Zone Philippines

PPMD-ADM-022

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION

The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority – Procurement and Property Management Department is now accepting application for registration of prospective suppliers / contractors and the renewal of registration for existing suppliers/contractors for the supply of various goods and services to the SBMA for the year 2006.

Please submit the following documents as applicable to the above address:

1) Letter of Request for Registration addressed to Head, PPMD
2) Fully Accomplished Suppliers Registration Form
3) Information Sheet
   a.) Manager/Proprietor
   b.) Authorized Company Representative
4) Registration Requirements
   a.) Minimum Requirements
      i. Notarized Company Profile
      ii. SEC/DTI Registration, *whichever is appropriate*
      iii. Article of Incorporation/Partnership, *if applicable*
      iv. Valid Municipal/City Business/Mayor's Licenses and Permits
      v. VAT Registration certificates and receipts of payments remitted for the last two (2) years
      vi. Audited/Comparative Financial Statement for the Last Two (2) Years
      vii. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
      viii. Tax Clearance
      ix. Gov't E-Procurement Service (GEPS) Registration Certificate
      x. Authorized and/or Exclusive Distributorship/Dealership
      xi. Certificate of Non-block listed with any Government Agency.
      xii. Certificate Authorizing PPMD to verify all registration documents provided.
      xiii. Affidavit of Authenticity and Completeness of Documents and Information presented
   b.) Additional requirements apply for suppliers/contractors of drug and other health commodities, veterinary products, consulting and civil works.

For more information, please contact Florante G. Espiritu at phone number (047) 252-4283.

(Sgd.) RANI C. CRUZ
Manager

(PDI – January 15 & 22, 2006)

Air Force 'rebels' remain defiant

By Nikko Dizon

THE TABLE IN THE MIDDLE OF their 1,000-square-meter detention compound at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City perhaps best illustrates the sentiments of the 12 young Philippine Air Force officers who joined the failed Oakwood mutiny in July 2003.

It has been entirely painted with a replica of the revolutionary flag that the mutineers used as armbands when they took over a posh building of serviced apartments in Makati City to demand the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo and other top government officials.

"You may call it defiance, but the word evokes a lot of anger or aggressiveness. For us, it simply shows our consistency in holding our views," 1st Lt. Francisco Ashley Acedillo, the group's appointed spokesperson, told the INQUIRER on Thursday.

It was a day after four of their comrades in the Army escaped from detention in Fort Bonifacio.

The flag—a red field with a stylized sun with eight rays around the letter K in ancient Tagalog script—was used by the Magdalo faction of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo.

But while the Aguinaldo flag had eight rays to represent the country's first eight provinces, the replica painted on the table had 16 rays.

Magdiwang

Capt. Segundino Orfiano Jr., the highest ranking officer in the group, said they preferred to be called "Magdiwang," after the faction led by Andres Bonifacio.

Acedillo and Orfiano have been held at PAF headquarters since July 2003, together with 1st Lieutenants Wilfredo Camacho, Billy Pascua, Mark Dennis Derecho, Christopher Orongan and Charleston Tan, and 2nd Lieutenants Archie Grande, Jeveehboy Macarubbo, Adrian Alvarino, Joel Plaza and Jigger Montallana.

Seated with his comrades around the table, Acedillo said the group would rather not comment on the recent escape of four of their colleagues.

All he would say was: "We wish them well. We hope they are safe—that's the utmost concern, especially of their families."

Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes, PAF commanding general, gave the INQUIRER clearance to interview the soldiers. "To show that we are transparent," according to the PAF spokesperson, Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla.

The group's custodian, Maj. Abdulsala Harum, said security at the detention area had been beefed up following the Army officers' escape.

But he expressed confidence that the group he was guarding would not attempt the same. "These guys are good," he said.

"They're not behaving the way the Army guys did," Padilla said, and dismissed the intriguingly painted table as "just a statement" of the group.

No 'entanglements'

Acedillo said the group did not know about the supposed destabilization plot brewing.

"The limitations and confines of our detention are enough to nip in the bud whatever it is people might think we are doing [here]," he said.

Pacquiao all out . . .

From page A1

the last fight to him. I am very hungry for this fight."

Morales, during the promotion for this fight, acknowledged that his loss to Raheem was "an embarrassment," and that he needs a win tonight (this morning in Manila) "to restore some credibility" to his career.

Interestingly, Morales (48-3, 34 KOs) always seem to do extremely well after a loss. He has lost two of three fights to Barrera. After his first loss, Morales came back to defeat Paulie Ayala. Following the second loss, Morales defeated Pacquiao via a narrow unanimous decision.

And here he is, fresh off the third loss of his career.

Pacquiao weighed in at 128 1/2 pounds Friday, Morales at the super featherweight limit of 130. Only minutes later, Morales said six words to a reporter that summed up how important this fight is to him.

"I need to prove I'm OK," he said.

Pacquiao (40-3-1, 31 KOs), with world titles in two weight classes, had several complaints after his loss to Morales, which hurt his focus. He said his punching power was reduced because he was forced to use Winning gloves instead of Reyes gloves, which are considered a puncher's glove.

Pacquiao also said he couldn't see after the fifth round because of a cut over his right eye, and also was having problems with his promoter at the time, Murad Muhammad.

All systems go

Tonight, Pacquiao can use Reyes gloves, and he has a new promoter in Gary Shaw. All systems are go.

"Just from everything we have seen, Manny is the most relaxed he has been," said Pacquiao's manager, Shelly Finkel. "He hasn't got distractions. If he can't win this fight, it is only because Morales is better."

Pacquiao, who is trained by Freddie Roach out of the Wild Card Gym in Hollywood, said he saw some things in Morales' loss to Raheem he can use.

"In his fight against Raheem, I have seen Morales' mistakes," Pacquiao said. "I need to use my jab more. I need speed, more movement and more body attacks."

As for being able to use Reyes gloves, Pacquiao hinted that could mean a knockout victory for him.

"I will try, but I'm not going to promise," Pacquiao said. "I want nothing more than to beat Morales."

"Yes, we will go all-out, hurt him early, go for the body," Roach said.

Roach noted that Morales had had a hard time making the official 130-pound limit and should check in at least 145 pounds for the fight.

'He'll have a lot of food in there, and we will break him by banging his body," Roach told the INQUIRER after the official weigh-in.

Pacquiao, being a southpaw, didn't seem to bother Morales in their first fight. But Morales won't have his longtime trainer and father, Jose, in his corner tonight. Morales replaced his father with Jose Lopez after the loss to Raheem.

Morales, however, said his camp was very smooth and that there were not any wholesale changes. In his mind, neither him having a new trainer nor Pacquiao's newfound peace of mind are going to be a problem.

"They can say all they want, that they are going to be more aggressive, that they are going to do this, do that," Morales said. "But they are not fighting by themselves. There is going to be somebody in front of them and that is going to be me.

"And you know, as everyone else knows, I don't back away from a fight." *New York Times News Service with a report by Recah Trinidad*

Cracks in AFP top ranks showing

From page A1

as chiefs of the Southern and Western Command, respectively, went against military tradition and regulations.

They said that since Habacon had less than a year left in the service, he could no longer qualify for promotion under military rules unless he was promoted as AFP chief of staff.

Military observers also pointed out that other officers more senior than Danga would have qualified for the Wescom post.

Habacon was implicated in the "Hello Garci" scandal as one of the generals allegedly involved in election cheating in Mindanao.

Danga was Isafp chief at the time of the wiretapping of Ms Arroyo's conversations with then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano during the 2004 canvassing of votes.

He was also Isafp chief during the alleged wiretapping of Ms Arroyo's presidential rivals from January to June 2004.

Disgruntlement

Insiders also disclosed the alleged disgruntlement among ranking officers over the anticipated appointment of the Army chief, Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, as AFP chief of staff when Gen. Generoso Senga retires in July.

Esperon is a member of Philippine Military Academy Class of 1974, which has adopted Ms Arroyo as an honorary member.

His appointment means that after Senga, who belongs to PMA Class '72, no one from Class '73 will get to sit as AFP chief of staff.

PAF chief Reyes belongs to Class '73 along with Navy chief Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga, newly named Central Command chief Lt. Gen. Samuel Bagasin, and Habacon himself.

Senga yesterday admitted being unable to prevent his officers from allowing the Magdalo members to go public with their sentiments.

But he said that he saw "no problem" there. "It's General Reyes who has the discretion [to permit interviews]. Better ask him," Senga told reporters. He also urged reporters not to speculate on Reyes' unexpected leniency.

Senga had earlier asked Quevedo to explain why Trillanes was allowed to give interviews outside the Makati RTC.

Lead agency

The President has directed the Department of Justice to be the "lead agency" in investigating the escape of Capt. Nicanor Faeldon on Dec. 14 and the Magdalo 4 on Jan. 17.

In his public service program over dwIZ radio, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday quoted intelligence reports as saying that a priest had been identified as one of those sheltering Faeldon.

"We received reports that [Faeldon] is in Cavite, being hidden by a priest," he said.

Gonzalez also said the Magdalo 4—Army Capt. Nathaniel Rabonza and 1st Lieutenants Lawrence San Juan, Sonny Sarmiento and Patricio Bumidang Jr.—could be hiding in a safe house in Kamuning, Quezon City.

Gonzalez, who has administrative control over the National Bureau of Investigation, said he received the information from his own intelligence team as well as the regular "intelligence channel."

"The President has ordered that the DOJ should take the lead in investigating circumstances behind the [escape]," Gonzalez said.

"Let us investigate this as soon as possible so that we would know who is involved, why it happened, and who are working in connivance with them," he quoted Ms Arroyo as saying.

He added: "As the Commander in Chief, she has every right to know what is happening in the rank and file of the military."

But when asked if this showed that the President had lost her trust in the foot soldiers, Gonzalez said it did not.

"There could be some [soldiers] who are not sympathetic to [the rebels'] cause, but to their persons," he said, adding that it would also not look good for the military to investigate its own.

Connivance

Gonzalez said it was impossible for the Magdalo 4 to escape without the "connivance" of those guarding them.

"They are soldiers, brothers in arms. They are sympathetic to each other," he said.

To prevent another escape, Gonzalez said the DOJ was considering asking the Makati RTC to transfer the Magdalo soldiers to the prison in Muntinlupa City.

"The prison guards in Muntinlupa are more adept in sizing up the psychology of prisoners," he said.

He justified the planned transfer by saying that the Magdalo soldiers were charged with coup d'etat, "a crime under the Revised Penal Code and, therefore, under a civilian court."

"The court has the authority and jurisdiction to order where they should be confined," he said, adding that a Supreme Court ruling had affirmed this.

FVR: No coup attempt

Former President Fidel Ramos deplored the escape of the Magdalo 4, but expressed confidence that it was not part of a renewed attempt to unseat Ms Arroyo.

"The escape of the four officers is deplorable and it is very unbecoming at a time like this when indeed there are reported movements of this and that in the [AFP]," Ramos said at a press conference held at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport upon his arrival yesterday from a weeklong visit to India.

Let us not panic

"The escape is [said to indicate] that there is going to be a coup [attempt]. I don't see it that way," he said.

Ramos called on authorities "to exert all efforts to pursue the escapees to the maximum so that the public as well as our national security would be put at ease."

"Let us not panic," he said. *With reports from Armand N. Nocum and Nikko Dizon*

AFP top spook: I was there, but ...

By Luige A. del Puerto

GUARDING PRISONERS BElonging to the Magdalo group is hard enough, but barring interviews when reporters have one of the ex-mutineers cornered is even harder.

Brig. Gen. Marlu Quevedo, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (Isapf), aired this statement in the course of explaining how reporters were able to interview Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes during a hearing of his coup d'etat case at the Makati Regional Trial Court on Tuesday.

Quevedo said he could hardly be expected to disallow any interviews because reporters had by then flocked around Trillanes.

"I will not deny I was there, but what would you have me do when the media had swarmed [all over] him? What picture would you paint of me, of Isapf, of the AFP, if I had forcefully whisked him away with all the reporters around him?" Quevedo said on the phone Friday.

"You'd paint the worst picture. You'd say Isapf is curtailing freedom of expression," he said.

Quevedo said he had neither given reporters nor was he asked by them for permission to talk to Trillanes.

"Unknown to many, someone was whisking [Trillanes] out of the building, but the media were already there," he said.

He added that when the interviews started, Isapf agents could not get Trillanes out by force because it might result in the injury of a member of the media.

Quevedo admitted his presence in the area during the hearing. He said he went to Makati to ensure that none of the Magdalo boys would escape.

"I don't want a repeat of the Faeldon incident," he said, referring to Marine Capt. Nicanor Faeldon, another Magdalo leader who managed to elude his guards in the same Makati RTC building last month and has since been the object of a manhunt.

On Tuesday, a news crew of the TV network ABS-CBN waited on the ground floor of the building for an apparently prearranged interview with Trillanes.

The Magdalo leader spoke with reporters for half an hour, airing his political views and saying the choice was now between President Macapagal-Arroyo and a better life.

"It's time for us to decide which side we will take, whether we are for GMA or for change... If you choose change, it means you want and are hoping that your quality of life and that of your fellow Filipinos will be better," he said.

Quevedo said that if anyone found Trillanes' statements seditious, the latter should be charged with sedition.

'Balikbayanis' return to rebuild country of their roots

From page A1

own airfare and participated in the Gawad Kalinga Bayanihan Build.

Gawad Kalinga is a 10-year-old movement against poverty that started in the Catholic Charismatic community, Couples for Christ. What began as an experiment in building one home for one poor family has, in recent years, become a multisectoral effort in nation-building. The goal is to build 700,000 homes in 7,000 communities in seven years (by Oct. 2010). Currently, there are around 650 communities nationwide, with more sites being opened regularly.

The "build" began with a visit to GK villages in Baseco in Tondo, Manila. Afterwards, the bulk of the *balikbayanis* went to Bicol while 30 delegates spent their week in Isabela to build homes.

"You want to give back the blessings you have received," said Marietta Mayuga Pascua, a California-based grandmother of five, who helped out in Tumauni, Isabela.

Marietta and husband Tony sweated it out with fellow *balikbayanis*, full-time GK workers, future GK beneficiaries, volunteer construction workers, and even a mayor and his municipal officers. Volunteers cemented hollow blocks for the walls, dug up the soil for the foundation, painted, mixed cement, and helped pass along building materials to where it was needed. In some sites, such as Iriga, Camarines Sur, the guest builders also planted crops in the nearby vegetable garden.

Source of inspiration

The new crew may have felt like they slowed down the work because of their inexperience, but they were actually a source of inspiration for the people building with them.

"*Natutuwa po kami* (We are delighted)," said 45-year-old Armando Ramos, a beneficiary in Iriga, Camarines Sur. "*Di pa rin nakalimot tumulong sa aming mahihirap. Di katulad ng ibang mayaman* (They have not forgotten to help the poor, unlike other rich people)."

The *balikbayanis* were delighted with the whole experience as well.

"It's living out your faith, what you believe in and doing it for your country, your own roots. Double purpose: faith and patriotism," said Inoy Figueroa, who used to dislike coming home because of the heat, but came home to work in a GK site.

Inoy noted that after the "build," the respective volunteers adopted the GK village they worked in as their own, regardless of who sponsored it. By the end of the week, there were pledges to sponsor the pre-school in one site as well as proposals for a mobile clinic to go around GK villages in the same area.

Sense of self

For some of the volunteers, digging in the dirt was more than just building a foundation for a home. It was getting back to your roots, and getting a better foundation for a sense of self.

Ben Dichioso Jr. was born in Maryland, USA. He used to be ashamed of being Filipino.

"In America if you have an accent you will be discriminated against. You will be teased. As a child, no one wants to be teased so we hide. We're not Filipinos anymore. We blend and we mix," he said.

He lived the American dream and was a captain in the US Air Force, even receiving an award for combat engineering while assigned in Guam.

In 1998, he got sick and lost his job. His wife left him and he lost half of everything he owned in the divorce.

Stay rooted

"I asked myself: 'What happened?' I was at the top of my game and now I was living in the basement of my parents' house. I remember calling out to God, 'Lord, Lord I surrender. I can't do anymore.'"

Ben got his life back. Now, he is an enthusiastic GK advocate proud of his Filipino roots. On his train commute to work, he wears a denim jacket with his name and the GK 777 logo embroidered on it.

Whether people asked or not, Ben would find a way to talk about being Filipino and being involved in Gawad Kalinga.

"Don't take the path that I took. Stay rooted in being Filipino," he would tell the Fil-Am youth during talks on college campuses.

Kids can join, too

Daniel Espiritu-Paz was certainly a source of motivation for his fellow volunteers. The six-year-old did his share of the work—painting, cementing hollow blocks, and even taking his place in the cement brigade to pass empty buckets along the line.

Daniel was just one of the heroic kids in this movement as the Batang Bayani of Gawad Kalinga have three villages being built with the thousands of coins saved from allowances. Twelve houses were awarded to beneficiaries just last December in Nueva Ecija, where the first Batang Bayani village is located.

Don't forget

According to statistics from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, 685,485 Filipino overseas workers were deployed around the world from January to August of 2005 .

Marietta Pascua understands only too well the urge to leave. She herself left the Philippines in 1973. Despite a college degree, the money she was making was not enough. She found employment in a telephone company before putting up her own store for Asian goods, which she later sold. Her only piece of advice to those who want to leave: Don't forget who you are and where you came from.

Meaningful life

While many Filipinos pine for greener pastures abroad, 28-year-old Eleanor Chichioco is staying after the Bayanihan Build to work full time for Gawad Kalinga.

She worked three years in New York and had what many would consider a good life: Partying with friends, shopping, backpacking in Europe. And then 9/11 happened.

"Sept. 11 really jolted a lot of people including myself," said Eleanor. "All of a sudden you're going into the subway and you see the faces of all these missing people. You think—what does my life stand for?"

Proud to be Pinoy

Going into ministry work for Singles for Christ, she eventually found her calling in the Philippines. Despite concerns about going to unfamiliar places around the country and overcoming the language barrier, Eleanor has no regrets.

"I don't want to work to escape ... People work so hard so that they can escape. What kind of life is that? I just want my life to be consistently meaningful every day," she said.

And Eleanor, together with countless others, found her life's purpose in building, not just houses for the poor, but rebuilding a nation with a renewed faith in God and a renewed sense of pride in being Pinoy.

US wrong in saying Osama has weakened, analysts say

WASHINGTON—WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS LISTENING to Osama bin Laden's latest tape heard a weakened man on the run, but other US officials and analysts heard a dangerous leader rallying his troops, mocking the United States and possibly setting up another attack.

The audiotape—the first one from the al-Qaida leader since December 2004—said the militant network was preparing attacks in the United States but was open to a truce with Americans, linked to the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq.

As soon as the tape aired on Thursday, White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said it proved al-Qaida leaders were fugitives under the gun and Vice President Dick Cheney said Bin Laden appeared to be in deep hiding with difficulties getting messages out.

But some counterterrorism officials and analysts say this assessment from the White House is off the mark and fails to examine the benefits a savvy operator like Bin Laden may derive from showing he is alive and focused on a US attack.

A US counterterrorism official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said al-Qaida was propaganda savvy and knew how to manipulate the airwaves, in contrast to the United States, which has had trouble getting its message across.

"In the cacophony of the media and the Internet, the al-Qaida voice is clear and identifiable," the official said.

"They have us on that and this is another example of it."

Gen. Russ Howard, a recently retired Army terrorism expert who headed the counterterrorism program at the US Military Academy in West Point, New York, said Bin Laden was showing the world he was still in action.

"It's a message to rally his own forces and people loyal to him," he said. "He gets a 'two-fer': he's rallying his own people and psychologically he's raising the threat here."

Several officials, including Cheney, said Bin Laden's choice of an audio over a videotape was a sign of his crippled logistical capabilities. Some officials have suggested he wanted to avoid being seen in a video because he was ill.

Some analysts and other officials were wary of these suggestions and cautioned against wishful thinking.

"You can read it either way: If you're an optimist, Osama's deep down in a cave," Howard said. "If you're a pessimist, he's in downtown Islamabad two doors down from the president."

Michael Scheuer, a former top CIA official who once led the spy agency's hunt for Bin Laden, said the Bush administration failed to understand al-Qaida and would shrug off the tape at its peril.

"You ought to take the measure of your enemy and we're not doing that," he said, adding the truce call would resonate positively in the Muslim world.

"US officials continue to describe these people (al-Qaida) as a small bunch of gangsters and crazy people. They have no apparent conception that so much of the Islamic world is angry with America, not because of our freedoms or liberties but because of our foreign policies," he said. *Reuters*

It's his turn: Zawahri praises Afghan fighters

DUBAI—AL-QAIDA'S SECOND-in-command, Ayman al-Zawahri, praised Islamic fighters in Afghanistan, according to an Internet audiotape posted on Friday, a day after Osama bin Laden warned of attacks in America.

AL-ZAWAHRI in undated photo AP

In Washington, a CIA spokesperson said it was Zawahri's voice on the tape.

A US counterterrorism official initially said the tape was several years old but then retracted the statement, saying that the date of the recording was uncertain.

"I am honored to recite this jihadist poem," Zawahri said, praising mujahideen fighters. "We shall remain true to our oath (with the Afghan mujahideen)."

The message emerged one day after Bin Laden, al-Qaida's leader, said the group was preparing attacks in the United States but was open to a conditional truce with the Americans, according to an audiotape attributed to him.

In his 17-minute tape, Zawahri praised an Islamist Afghan poet, Mohebullah Kandahari: "The owner of the sword and pen, who carried both a machine gun and the Koran, known in scholarly circles … and who could be seen in jihadi arenas from the time of the Russian communist attack on Afghanistan until the crusader raid (led by the United States in 2001)."

The CIA spokesperson said: "After conducting a technical analysis, the CIA concludes with high confidence that the voice on the tape is that of Ayman al-Zawahri."

The little-known website which carried the tape said it was new, but the US counterterrorism official cast doubt on that assertion. "There is no reason to believe it was done recently. It could have been done at any time," the official said.

The United States conducted an air strike in Pakistan last week, which officials said was aimed at Zawahri and in which Pakistani intelligence sources said "a few militants" had been killed.

The last tape attributed to Zawahri was issued earlier this month. He said US President George W. Bush's plans to withdraw troops from Iraq meant Washington had been defeated by the Muslims. *Reuters*

Bush wife: Eight years in White House is enough

WASHINGTON—EIGHT YEARS IN THE White House is enough and it is right to limit presidents to a pair of four-year terms, first lady Laura Bush said on Friday.

"I think that's plenty. Eight years is a long time," President George W. Bush's wife told the BBC in an interview, on the anniversary of Bush's second inauguration. A constitutional amendment ratified in 1951 limits US presidents to two terms in office.

Mrs. Bush also agreed with her interviewer it was dispiriting to see al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden resurface in an audiotape this week. She said she worried about her husband on his travels.

"I worry about him, of course. I don't think there's anyone who's been married to a president that doesn't worry a little bit," she said.

Mrs. Bush, who has said on several occasions that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice would make a great president, said in the interview she did not now believe Rice would run.

Bush on Thursday ruled out his wife running for a Senate seat from their home state of Texas. "Never," he told a crowd.

She said the presidency had been about what she expected and that she had seen Bush's parents experience the weight of the job when Bush's father was president. *Reuters*

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Hongkong/ Shenzhen/ Macau	4D/3N	185	Bali + Hongkong	5D/4N	398
Bangkok	4D/3N	205	Singapore + Malaysia + Indonesia + Brunei	5D/4N	399
Kuala Lumpur	3D/2N	255	Shanghai	4D/3N	443
Bangkok +Pattaya	4D/3N	273	Beijing	4D/3N	469
Bangkok + Hongkong	5D/4N	289	Seoul	[illegible]	589
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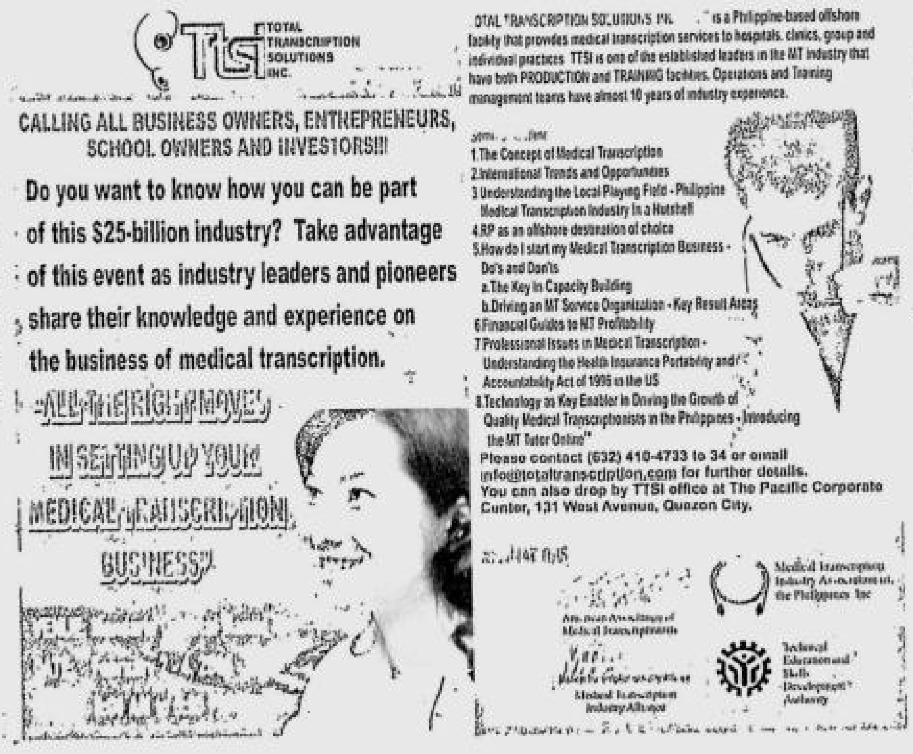
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Deadline passes with no word on fate of US hostage

WASHINGTON—A KIDNAPPERS' deadline expired on Friday with no word on the fate of US reporter Jill Carroll, whose father appealed to her captors in Iraq to spare his daughter's life.

JOURNALIST Jill Carroll AP

As Sunni Arab leaders in Iraq and Muslims around the world pleaded for her release, the US Embassy in Baghdad said it had no direct contact with the armed men who abducted Carroll on Jan. 7 in Baghdad after shooting dead her interpreter.

The kidnappers in a video had demanded the release of all Iraqi women detained by the US military in Iraq by Friday midnight Baghdad time.

Carroll's father made a desperate plea for his 28-year-old daughter that appeared on Arabic television channels.

"I want to speak directly to the men holding my daughter Jill, because they may also be fathers like me," Jim Carroll said in the statement that aired Friday on the Arabic-language network Al-Jazeera.

"My daughter does not have the ability to free anyone. She is a reporter and an innocent person," he said. "As a father, I appeal to you to release my daughter for the betterment of all of us."

On Thursday, the reporter's mother, Mary Beth Carroll, told the US television channel CNN: "Taking vengeance on my innocent daughter who loves Iraq and its people will not create justice."

Robert Ford, a diplomat at the US Embassy in Iraq, said that the hostage takers appeared to be "a relatively small group not reaching out to intermediaries."

Asked if there had been any direct conversation with the kidnappers, Ford said: "Not that I am aware of."

He added: "We have been working intensively with contacts on the Iraqi government and outside."

Carroll was abducted after visiting the office of a prominent Sunni political figure, Adnan al-Dulaimi, who Carroll had asked to interview.

Dulaimi appealed to the kidnappers to release Carroll at a press conference in Baghdad.

"I call on the kidnappers to release this journalist unconditionally and I shall work towards the release of Iraqi women," said Dulaimi, the leader of the Iraqi People's Conference.

"The kidnapping of the journalist is likely to harm our efforts to win the release of Iraqi men and women," he added.

Yasser al-Serri, director of the London-based Islamic Observatory, called on the Brigades of Vengeance to release Carroll rather than tarnish the image of Islam.

Representatives from the Committee on American Islamic Relations have flown to Iraq to try to win Carroll's release and Muslim leaders in Europe and Egypt have urged her captors to spare her life.

Carroll, a freelance journalist, set out to learn Arabic and cover the Iraq conflict in 2002, moving to Jordan. In 2003, she arrived in Baghdad and later began writing regularly for the Boston-based newspaper The Christian Science Monitor.

Another American freelance journalist, Steven Vincent, was kidnapped last August in the southern town of Basra. His bullet-riddled body was found the next day.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists in New York, 36 journalists have been abducted in Iraq since August 2004. Six of them were killed. *AFP*

Lost handbag with $110,000 in jewels returned

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA—A HANDBAG containing jewelry worth more than $110,000 has been returned to a woman who left it hanging on a shopping trolley in a car park, Australian police said Saturday.

The handbag, containing gold bracelets, rings, earrings, chains and pendants—plus a large sum of cash—was handed in to police in Melbourne by another woman, who wanted to remain anonymous.

"Victoria Police are very pleased that a Good Samaritan has actually decided to hand it in and not keep it for themselves, especially (as it is) a large quantity of jewelry and cash," said police spokesperson Shaun Livori.

"The person who lost the jewelry was very unfortunate that she lost it and she's an extremely lucky person that she's going to get it returned to her."

The owner, who wanted to be identified only as Kathy, told national radio she was overwhelmed by the return of the bag and its contents.

"I can't believe it at all—I am so grateful to that person," she said. "I didn't expect to ever see it again. *AFP*

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By doing so, I have contravened the Intellectual Property Code (Republic Act No 8293) and infringed upon the trademark of **RENO FOODS, INC.**

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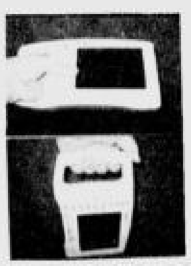

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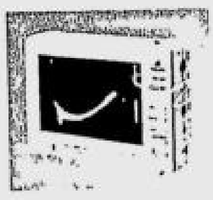

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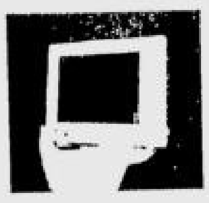

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Iran, anticipating possible UN sanctions, moving funds from Europe to other banks

TEHRAN—EMBROILED IN A NUCLEAR standoff with the West, Iran said on Friday it was moving funds out of Europe to shield them from possible UN sanctions and flexed its oil muscles with a proposal to cut Opec output.

"Yes, Iran has started withdrawing money from European banks and transferring it to other banks abroad," said a senior Iranian official, who asked not to be named.

Central Bank Gov. Ebrahim Sheibani was quoted earlier as saying Tehran had started shifting funds, but he sidestepped a question on whether the assets would go to accounts in Asia.

Financial markets reacted nervously to the uncertainty about Iran's foreign holdings, estimated at more than $30 billion, helping send oil to a four-month high above $67. The dollar dipped against the euro and the safe-haven Swiss franc.

It is far from clear how placing assets in Asia or anywhere abroad would protect them from being frozen as few governments or major banks would be willing to flout UN sanctions openly.

The United States and the European Union want the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to refer Iran to the Security Council at an emergency board meeting on Feb. 2.

The council has the power to impose trade or diplomatic sanctions, though no swift action to punish Iran is likely.

Russia, China and India, which all have major commercial interests in the Islamic Republic, have urged caution.

Anxious to maintain neutrality, IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei has refused an EU request to speed up a report on Iran's atomic activities in time for the Feb. 2 meeting, diplomats said.

Officials close to the IAEA said ElBaradei also felt Western pressure to refer Iran to the Security Council at the meeting was premature. Diplomats said he had promised the Iranians they would have until the next regular IAEA board on March 6 to meet his demand for better access to nuclear sites and documents.

A US official denounced Iran as a threat to regional and global peace and said it had breached international law.

"Iran has overstepped the bounds of international law in seeking to use its facility at Natanz for centrifuge research and enrichment," Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns told a news conference in New Delhi after meeting Indian officials.

India, a nuclear weapons power with increasingly warm ties with Washington as well as an old friendship with Iran, advocated restraint, echoing Chinese calls for more talks between Tehran and the EU trio of France, Germany and Britain.

"We remain very supportive of the initiatives taken by the European three to engage Iran in finding an amicable solution," said Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran.

The EU trio scrapped the talks last week after Iran removed IAEA seals on uranium enrichment equipment and resumed a suspended nuclear research program. US and EU officials say there can be no more talks unless Tehran reverses these steps.

Iran is trying to avoid UN censure or sanctions over its nuclear program, which it says is entirely peaceful. The West suspects it of secretly seeking nuclear weapons.

Talk of shifting foreign assets indicates how seriously the Islamic Republic is taking the threat of UN sanctions.

Iran has bitter memories of its US assets being frozen shortly after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Worries over Iran helped push oil above $67 on Friday and an Iranian proposal to slash a million barrels a day from Opec production from April was not calculated to calm markets. *Reuters*

Ex-Pentagon analyst jailed in spying case

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA—FRUSTRATED with what he saw as government inaction against the threat posed by Iran, Pentagon analyst Lawrence A. Franklin decided to take national security into his own hands.

He leaked classified information to reporters, an Israeli diplomat and two members of a pro-Israel lobbying group, hoping the national security council would take notice.

He certainly got the government's attention. Franklin was sentenced Friday to more than 12 years in prison, even though the judge who sentenced him believed his intentions were good.

"The defendant did not seek to hurt the United States," US District Judge T.S. Ellis III said at Franklin's sentencing for illegally disclosing classified information. "He thought he was helping to bring certain information to the attention" of the security council.

Worries about Iran have risen significantly since 2002-2004, when Franklin said he discussed classified information with the diplomat and two former lobbyists from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Franklin, 59, a policy analyst whose expertise included Iran, pleaded guilty to three felony counts in October as part of a plea bargain that requires him to cooperate in the government's prosecution against the former lobbyists, who are scheduled for trial in April.

Franklin's prison time could be sharply reduced later if prosecutors are satisfied with the extent of his cooperation. Ellis allowed Franklin to remain free while the case continues.

Franklin did not speak at Friday's sentencing, but said at his plea hearing in October that he was motivated by frustration with US policy in the Middle East when he gave classified information to Israeli diplomat Naor Gilon and the AIPAC lobbyists, Steven J. Rosen and Keith Weissman. *AP*

Tokyo bans US beef imports anew

TOKYO—SHOCK AND WORRY SPREAD IN Japan on Saturday after Tokyo reimposed a ban on US beef imports over mad cow concerns. One leading fast food chain shelved plans to resume serving a popular beef dish and consumers said they felt betrayed.

Japan, the biggest foreign market for American beef, last month lifted a ban on imports imposed in 2003 after a US case of mad cow disease. The ban had become an irritant in otherwise close bilateral ties, prompting strong pressure from Washington.

Tokyo finally lifted the ban under strict conditions, including stipulations that materials believed to carry a higher risk of mad cow disease, such as spinal cord tissue, be removed.

Officials said on Friday, however, that a total of 390 kg of beef imported from a New York meatpacker had been found to contain spinal material when it was inspected at Tokyo's Narita airport.

The announcement raised questions about the initial decision to lift the ban and the overall trustworthiness of US products, topics sure to be high on the agenda when US Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick visits Japan from late Saturday.

"I feel a little betrayed," said Takayoshi Sakamoto, 34, who works for a personnel management firm.

"They promised they would check things, but this is what happened," he added. "I can tell you that even when US beef is back on the shelves again, I won't really want to buy it."

Fast food chain Yoshinoya said it was postponing an eagerly awaited resumption of sales of its signature "gyudon"—marinated, stewed beef on rice—planned for mid-February.

"It appears there were large problems with compliance, which we feel is extremely regrettable," a Yoshinoya spokesperson said.

"The whole situation is very unfortunate." Hideki Hayashi, a primary school teacher who described himself as a gyudon fan, said he was shocked and disappointed. *Reuters*

SMART 3G WOWS

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"One beat. One dance. One Vision." That is how the famous Sinulog festival in Cebu was billed this year, and it certainly lived up to everyone's expectations. With both local and foreign visitors flocking to the country's second largest city last weekend, Cebu was rich in fiesta flavor and buzzing with excitement.

Celebrated every third Sunday of January, Cebuanos marked the 26th Sinulog in our country's history with the usual flair and vibrancy they have come to be known for. Dozens of groups, or contingents, representing schools, barangays and municipalities assembled in some of the brightest and most creative costumes ever seen.

This year, SMART joined in the festivities by promoting what is sure to be the next big thing—3G or third generation technology. Amid the revelry, SMART set up two main trial booths for people to experience first-hand what to expect from 3G. Free trials were being offered, particularly video calling using 3G-enabled handsets. With tech-savvy SMART personnel giving the demonstrations, seeing the person's face. on the screen of the phone as you talked to them certainly impressed all who witnessed it. "Ang galing, ano?", was all Tess Chan, a loyal SMART subscriber, could offer as she looked on in amazement. Other features subscribers can expect from 3G include video streaming, multi-media downloads and high speed Internet.

SMART subscribers Tess Chan and Angel Cruz check out what 3G can do

Sec. Remonde is introduced to SMART 3G in Cebu

Sen. Pangilinan samples SMART 3G video calling

No less than the mayor of Cebu City, Tomas R. Osmeña, was one of the first to give SMART's 3G technology a try. As the live video call from Cebu to Kalibo was made, the mayor was able to catch a glimpse of the Ati-Atihan street dancing live on the phone's screen. The line was clear and the image on the screen real time. Aside from the mayor of Cebu, other VIP's who were at the Grandstand, like Secretary Cerge Remonde and Senator Francis Pangilinan, were also able to experience first-hand what third generation technology can offer.

SMART 3G Links up to Kalibo

At the same time, over in Kalibo, Aklan, native Aklanons and tourists gathered for festivities honoring the Sto. Niño or the infant child Jesus. The Ati-Atihan Festival is known worldwide for people coloring their skin black while wearing colorful costumes and dancing in the streets. Amid screams of "Hala bira!" and "Viva Señor Sto. Niño!", the Ati-Atihan has often been compared to the Mardi Gras festival in New Orleans, Louisiana.

As night fell, the two fiestas were linked via a Smart 3G video call. While the Sinulog Grand Parade was being capped by a wonderful fireworks display that lit the night sky, a surprise message from the Mayor of Kalibo, Aklan was projected onto a wide screen for the crowd at Fuente Circle to see and hear. Using the SMART 3G cell phone, Mayor Raymar Acevedo Rebaldo greeted the Cebuanos and congratulated them on this special day. Mayor Rebaldo welcomed the prospect of sharing his devotion to the Sto. Niño through SMART 3G. The mayor noted that it is really better to see the person on the other line, something that SMART 3G has now made possible.

From Cebu to Kalibo, and soon throughout the archipelago, SMART 3G is all set to revolutionize the way we communicate with one another. Even as the drum beats of the Sinulog and Ati-Atihan festivals die down, another sound is slowly rising from below. That rumbling is SMART 3G, getting ready to change the telecommunications landscape.

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One beat..

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Northern, eastern Europe blasted by freezing weather; 70 die in Russia

PEOPLE heavily clad against severe cold walk in a street in Minsk, Belarus, Jan. 20, as temperatures plunged to -30 C (-22 F). AP

MOSCOW—FREEZING AIR FROM SIBERIA sent temperatures across much of northern and eastern Europe diving Friday and the death toll from the cold rose to more than 70 in Russia, the hardest hit in the region.

From Finland to eastern Turkey sub-zero temperatures, sometimes accompanied by blizzards, drove people off the streets, closed schools, disrupted travel and led to cuts in power supplies.

Forecasters warned that the cold snap would last for several more days.

In Moscow, a spokesperson for the city health services said five people died overnight.

The latest deaths brought to at least 71 the number of those perishing across Russia since the start of severe weather late Monday, including 16 in the capital.

Official reporting of deaths outside the capital has been sporadic and the figures are believed to be incomplete.

In neighboring Ukraine, seven people have died since Wednesday in the Lugansk region near the eastern border with Russia, said Volodymyr Gladchenko, an official at the emergency situations ministry.

Most died of hypothermia after drinking alcohol, he said, as temperatures dipped to minus 30 C (minus 22 F).

Latvia's meteorological center said the temperature of minus 27 C (minus 16.6 F) in Riga was the coldest in 100 years in the capital on this day in January.

Police said four people had died of the cold in Riga and two in the countryside on Friday.

As temperatures fell to minus 33 Celsius (minus 27.4 Fahrenheit) in the eastern part of Estonia, a surge in demand from power plants and homes caused problems for Eesti Gaas, the country's only gas supply company.

Heavy snowfalls, blustery winds and plunging temperatures wreaked havoc across northern Europe, causing major disruptions in air, road and ferry traffic and leaving many people without power.

Late Friday, the airport in Copenhagen was closed for more than two hours as the frigid weather prevented the de-icing of aircraft wings, an airport spokesperson said.

It reopened but only for departing planes as "we have a major logjam of planes that need to take off after waiting for several hours," the spokesperson Anette Haaning said, adding that Denmark's main airport does not expect to return completely to normal until Sunday.

In Norway, more than 26,000 people were temporarily without power after heavy snow brought down electricity cables, and the national electricity grid Statnett warned that more power outages were likely. *AFP*

CEBU AND KALIBO:
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RT 3G Demo at Fuente Circle

The SMART-Palawod sa Bantayan contingent

SMART subscriber Dr. Billy Jaca tries out 3G

SMART subscriber Grace Lerma experiences a live video call

nce...

...one vision...

...that was Sinulog 2006.

r and culture of Kalibo was in full display at the 2006 Ati-Atihan festival

SMART 3G
The wireless revolution right before your eyes.

Release voided: Man who shot Pope rearrested

ISTANBUL, TURKEY—MEHMET ALI AGCA, THE man who shot Pope John Paul II in 1981, was rearrested on Friday, only hours after Turkey's Supreme Court overruled a lower court decision that made his early release possible last week.

MEHMET Ali Agca AP

Agca, who had not been seen in public after his release, was captured by the police at a home in Kartal, a conservative neighborhood on the Asian side of Istanbul.

Wearing the same blue sweatshirt he wore when he walked out of prison on Jan. 12, he was handcuffed and taken to the police headquarters here, where he was mobbed by camera crews.

"I am not God, I am the messiah," he shouted to the cameras in both Turkish and Italian. "I'm declaring the doomsday!"

He often referred to himself as the messiah during his imprisonment.

Agca served 19 years in Italian jails before being forgiven by the pope in 1999 and pardoned by the Vatican in 2000, which allowed for his extradition to Turkey. There he was sentenced to 36 years in jail for a murder and other crimes committed in the 1970s.

Late last year, a court found that the time he had spent in Italy as well as a 2000 amnesty law should be applied to his sentence, and that he should be released after serving five years, six months and 27 days.

People here expected Agca to serve a longer term for the 1979 killing of Abdi Ipekci, a respected newspaper editor.

Agca was widely associated with the nationalist criminal network in Turkey but has never revealed details of his links to this group. *New York Times News Service*

Drug gang war in Mexico escalates

ACAPULCO, MEXICO—DRUG GANGS mowed down three people in a drive-by shooting in Acapulco on Friday, a day after members of a drug cartel in the northern border town of Nuevo Laredo murdered 3 others and set their bodies on fire.

The killers in the Pacific resort of Acapulco shot their victims in the street in an outlying district of the city, home to some 700,000 people.

"The characteristics of the crime show it was an execution by those who are caught up in drugs," Acapulco Mayor Felix Salgado said.

A feud between rival drug gangs broke out in Acapulco in 2005, surprising Mexicans more used to drug violence on the US border or in the drug-producing states of western Mexico.

Last year, the deputy head of a state police force was shot dead leaving a beachside restaurant and suspected members of a drug gang attacked a police station with grenades.

Tourists have not been involved in the violence and Salgado said the city, popular with US visitors, was safe.

"People involved in illicit activities have problems, but tourists are respected here, they walk about here, they are looked after here," he said.

More than 1,000 people died in drug killings in Mexico last year, mostly in a fight between the Gulf cartel in northeastern Mexico and an alliance of traffickers from the western state of Sinaloa.

On Thursday, firemen in Nuevo Laredo found the bodies of three men who had been shot and set ablaze to warn off rivals in a drug war that has claimed 16 victims this month in the town, just across the Rio Grande from Laredo, Texas.

The bodies were found in the trunk of a burning sport utility vehicle. Two of the men were handcuffed.

Dousing victims with gasoline and burning them is a favored tactic of the warring cartels, designed to spread fear. *Reuters*

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OPINION

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Wiretap army

EDITORIAL

THE TESTIMONY WE HEARD LAST THURSDAY, from the various witnesses invited by the Senate to shed light on the wiretapping scandal, was not revelatory. Even Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the Committee on National Defense and Security, found himself virtually apologizing for the hearing's "non-explosive" character.

But the information that came out from that hearing was confirmatory; it validated (a) news stories disclosing the possible role of the military's intelligence unit in targeted wiretapping operations, and (b) growing public perception that military units were in fact involved in partisan political activity.

The sound bite of the day belonged to ex-Commodore Rex Robles, who was intimately involved in the tumultuous and ultimately failed history of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement. "I'm here and I'm sitting uncomfortably because, as we listen to the tapes or the recordings, the more I feel that we have an intelligence agency that has deteriorated, probably beyond repair." He was, of course, referring to the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, or Isafp.

His words carried considerably more weight than those of his fellow RAM leader, the always articulate ex-Sen. Gregorio Honasan, if only because he has successfully negotiated the transition to neutrality; he is today a security expert, often sought for his security analyses.

By linking political influence and military conduct, Honasan actually phrased the issue best: "It is grossly unfair—in fact, I think it is criminal—for civilian authority or politicians to inflict this on an institution that is mandated to be apolitical." But then, through the backdoor of politically loaded language, he allowed partisanship to enter the discussion: "Soldiers are not praetorian guards of any individual or group. They are soldiers of the Filipino people." (He could not have been unaware of the political resonance of that last sentence.)

In truth, most of the witnesses were from the political opposition: Honasan, who handled the campaign security for the late movie icon Fernando Poe Jr.; retired Gen. Rodolfo Canieso, who supported presidential candidate Sen. Panfilo Lacson; and Mira Dumlao, Honasan's secretary. The lopsidedness reflects the effect of Executive Order No. 464, which prevents government or military officials from testifying in Congress without the express approval of the President. It also reflects the likely focus of the wiretapping operation: the target, for the most part, was the opposition.

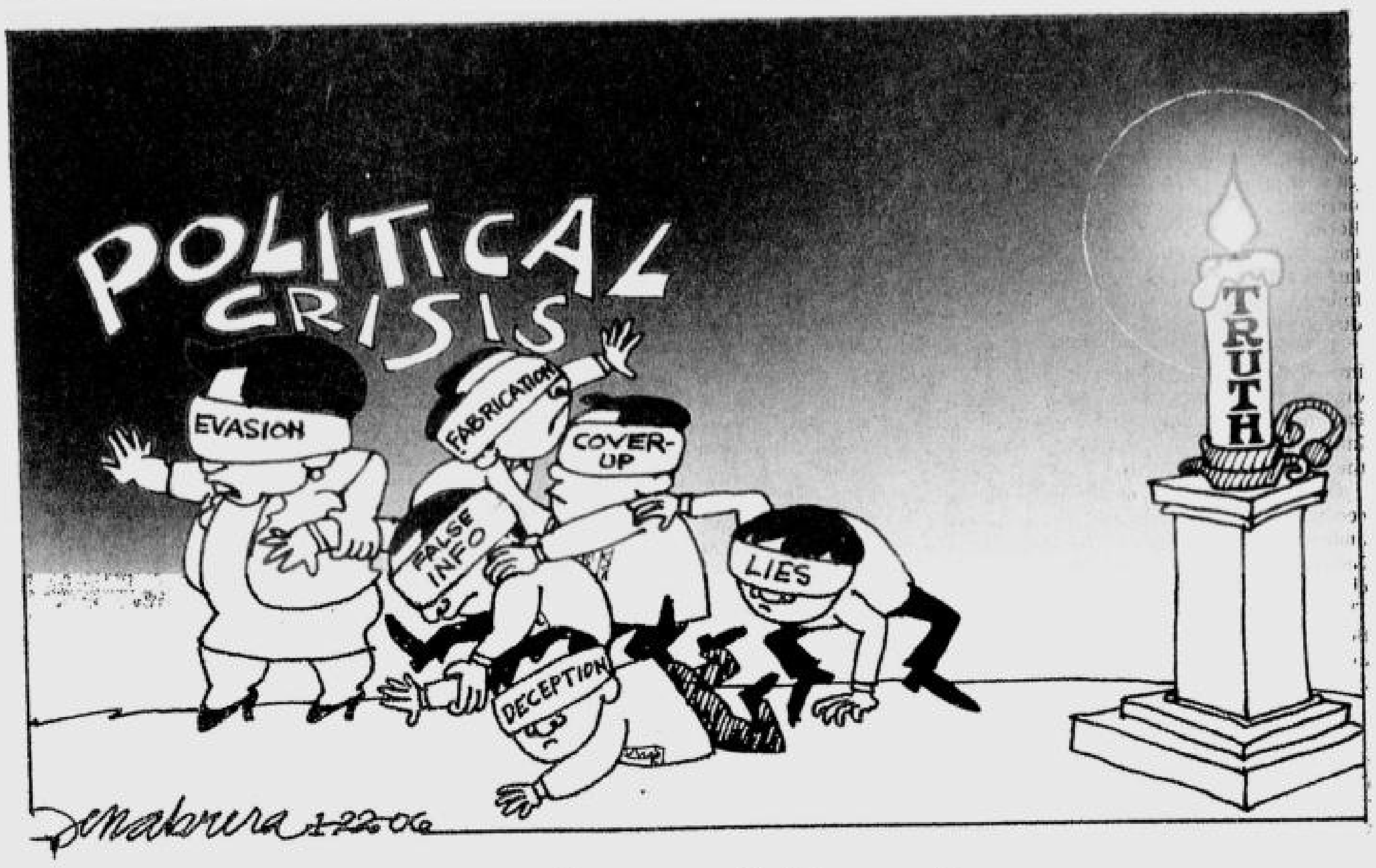
(How explain the wiretaps on ex-election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano? The most plausible answer: He was suspected of playing the field, and was tapped precisely to monitor his political loyalty.)

The Isafp has since denied any such wiretapping operation. Brig. Gen. Marlu Quevedo, Isafp chief, said it was not even possible to tap cellular phones. He said his unit's wiretapping capacity was "limited" to land lines, the equipment for tapping mobile phones being too expensive.

Now this is a definite improvement on the previous AFP claim that Isafp has no wiretapping capacity at all. But it does not put paid to the issue. Responding to the allegations by Marietta Santos—one of Isafp agent Vidal Doble's mistresses and a witness in Thursday's hearing—that she had seen just such a cellular phone interceptor in the Isafp's "blue room," Quevedo inexplicably turned legalistic: "We need evidence to prove that."

Either Isafp has the equipment, or it doesn't. "We" don't need a lengthy adversarial process to know the truth. All we need is for President Macapagal-Arroyo to allow Quevedo to appear before the Senate committee, even if in executive session.

As it is, with only generic denials from Quevedo and the AFP's spokesman, we are left contemplating a civil-rights nightmare: A politicized (or mercenary) Isafp, preying on those who happen to be on the wrong side. As it is, with the chief of the Isafp at the time of the wiretaps promoted instead of being called to account, we are left facing a national-security vulnerability: We have a military unit that knows too much, and a political leadership held hostage by that knowledge.



Grave abuse of discretion

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THIS IS MY REACTION TO THE LETTER PUBlished in this paper last Monday in defense of "San Beda Rector's act of discretion." It was written by Fr. Ranhilio Aquino, an esteemed friend who paid me many compliments for which I am sincerely grateful. But I am not the issue here.

The issue is the competence of the Father Rector to reverse a long-observed rule of the San Beda College of Law barring the re-enrollment of any student who flunks twice in any subject, the purpose being to weed out misfits who cannot live up to its excellent academic standards.

I write this not on behalf of my son who was the lone faculty member who immediately resigned over the violation of that rule. I am doing this in my capacity as a former long-time professor and an adopted son of the San Beda College of Law, with whose academic integrity I am deeply concerned.

Three students of the college had flunked Torts and Damages twice and so were disqualified under the rule. Dean Virgilio B. Jara, however, recommended their re-admission to the Father Rector, who approved it. In a strongly worded letter to the Father Rector, 36 members of the Law faculty protested and expressed their "vehement objection to the decision to readmit the said students."

In his reply, Father Anscar J. Chupungco, OSB, simply said, "I consider my action of approving said recommendation as an exercise of a discretionary power that is inherent in my position as Rector/President of the College."

My respectful view is that the Father Rector's claimed discretion over the College of Law covers only administrative matters such as the tuition fees to be charged, the moral character of its faculty members, the physical requirements like the air-conditioning and furnishing of the classrooms and the sanitation of the comfort rooms, and other non-academic matters.

It should not cover the professional qualifications of the teachers, the manner of their instruction and grading, and the academic policies they choose to adopt for the benefit of the students, the estimable record of the College, and the pride of its alumni.

Even assuming that he has that kind of discretion, there is such a thing as abuse of discretion. Discretion is defined as the ability to decide one way or the other and be right either way, but it is not that absolute. Under our Constitution, even Congress and the President of the Philippines can be reversed by the Supreme Court when they decide political questions, originally within their exclusive domain, with grave abuse of discretion.

The Father Rector says he studied the failed students' records before he approved Dean Jara's recommendation for their readmission as an exception to the violated rule. How careful was his study? Knowing that one of the said students had flunked **eight** subjects, the second **six** subjects and the third **four** subjects, he still exercised his claimed discretion and approved their re-enrollment. For a school as academically exacting as San Beda, that was grave abuse of discretion that the faculty had a right to protest "vehemently."

Father Aquino says that "Father Anscar merely approved the recommendation of the dean of the College of Law" because "the dean is at ground-zero." The Father Rector was later informed that the faculty itself had opposed Dean Jara, who they said "cannot abdicate faculty authority over purely academic matters by choosing not to take a stand or even voluntarily asking the Father Rector to interfere." In other words, he had been disauthorized to speak for them, but it was him that the Father Rector believed just the same.

The case of Camacho vs. Coresis, 387 SCRA 628, is not in point, Father Aquino, as it did not involve a conflict between the administrative authorities and the faculty, as the San Beda case did.

At the subsequent dialogue requested by the faculty, the Father Rector reiterated his earlier justification, adding that it had been approved by the Board of Trustees. The law faculty's "vehement objection" was meekly muted except for a few members who boldly expressed their opposition but without the support of their cautious colleagues. Everything is normal again at the San Beda College of Law under its submissive dean and intrusive Father Rector. The matter was deemed settled with the abject surrender of the law professors.

If I were still one of them I would have resigned as my son did despite the loss of substantial income from that high-paying College. A professor from Ateneo, while agreeing with us, remarked that my son Carlo should have resigned out of his own convictions and not because I am his father. You miss the point, *compañero*. My son resigned because I have taught him, as every parent should, that principles are more important than pesos.

God calling, you listening?

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

WHAT IS A PANIC MOMENT? A PANIC MOment is when you leave the key inside the car whose engine is running and alarm blaring, thus waking up a whole sleeping community. This happened last Tuesday night during our annual SVD assembly in Tagaytay City. After all attempts to open the car proved futile, Fr. Pabs Tagura, SVD, called by cell phone the guard of Christ the King Seminary here in Quezon City to get the car key duplicate. Before he could tell the guard to send over the duplicate with its remote, the panicky guard said, "Father, I have the car key, and I just pressed the remote. Have the car doors opened already?" If that is not belief, then I don't know what belief is!

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mk. 1, 14-20) we hear the story about the call of the disciples. It must have been such a powerful encounter because after Jesus said "Come after me," Simon and Andrew immediately left their nets and followed Him. James and John also left their father Zebedee and followed Him. What was it that made them follow Jesus? His credibility. They followed Him because He was a credible person.

* * *

A recent survey recently showed that a large number of people, not only in this country but also all over world, do not believe in politicians. Reason? Truth decay. There is a perceived discrepancy (at times, even blatant) between what their leaders do and say. Our earnest prayer is that God will give us leaders who will lead us and not mislead us, who will guide us and not blind us. Poor us, we have leaders who fool us!

* * *

"Repent, and believe in the Gospel." Bull's-eye. This is the message that all of us, especially our leaders, need to ponder and take to heart especially these days. Without true repentance, there can be no true moving on. And it all starts with humility and honesty—the bottom line.

* * *

At any moment in our lives, God constantly calls us to grow as persons. Growth is basically the movement from selfishness to true loving, from control to surrendering, from hoarding to giving. It is unfortunate that some of us, already past the noon day and now going into the sunset years of our lives, have not really grown in our understanding and in our loving. For some, only their pockets, their bellies and their heads have grown big, but they have small hearts when it comes to loving, and small hands when it comes to sharing.

* * *

Simon and Andrew left their nets to follow Him. That meant they left behind their business, their means of living and their pursuit of earthly power and riches for the sake of the Kingdom of God. James and John left not only their nets but also their father to follow Him. Every call entails a sacrifice, a letting go of things and/or people, for the sake of the Kingdom. What is it, who is it that hinders you from living a meaningful life and from truly serving your God?

* * *

There is a story about a rich father who takes his son on a trip to the countryside to show how poor some people are. The child is quiet through the whole trip. On their way home, the father asks his son what he learned from the trip, to which the son responds: "Dad, I saw that we have one dog, and they have four. We have a nice swimming pool, but they have a nice creek. We have fancy lights and lanterns, but they have countless stars at night. We have high walls for protection, but they have friends. Thanks Dad for showing me how poor we are." Poor indeed are those who do not let go of their comfort zones and let God into their lives.

* * *

It was not easy for me to leave the comforts of Manila and take an assignment in Abra in 1983. Neither was it easy for me to leave home, country and family in 1984 to go to cold, wintry and lonely Korea.

But, a call is a call. Looking back to my 25 years in the ministry, I can say that the most difficult assignments and years turned out to be the most memorable. Why? Because those were the times when I really felt God's presence and providence most.

Most meaningful, indeed, are the moments when we let go of our securities and venture into the deep, leaving behind the shallow waters close to the shore. Pity those who are always safe and comfortable. They never know what it is like to be insecure, and thus they never experience the providence and the surprises of our loving Father. If God is calling, don't press "call barring," and "call waiting."

* * *

At any moment that God is calling, and you find yourself trembling or bargaining, pray Padre Pio's beautiful prayer: "O Lord, I leave the past to your mercy, my present to your love, and my future to your providence. Amen."

* * *

By the time you read this column, Manny Pacquiao may already have lost or won. Whatever, he is one person who does us proud as a nation. ***Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!***

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to listen and follow you whenever, wherever you are calling. Amen.

A highly politicized Armed Forces (2)

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

ON JUNE 14 LAST YEAR, THE NATION WAS SET to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Battle for Bessang Pass. It was in this place where Filipino guerrilla forces, under Col. Russell Volkmann, routed Japanese units led by Lt. Gen. Yoshiharu Ozaki in a battle that has been described by historians as "a sizzling inferno . . . with heroism a common sight." It was a major victory for Filipino fighters during World War II, perhaps, the greatest victory for a purely Filipino combat force which lacked the heavy weapons organic to American units. Bessang Pass is located near the town of Cervantes in the eastern part of Ilocos Sur, some 12 kilometers away from Tirad Pass. (Gen. Gregorio Del Pilar made his famous last stand at Tirad Pass against advancing US forces in hot pursuit of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo during the Philippine-American war.)

To mark this important event, the government invited prominent national officials and foreign dignitaries to attend the ceremonies at Bessang Pass. As a precaution, army troops from the 50th Infantry Battalion were sent to the area to secure the site for the participants.

On Monday June 13, as the troops were proceeding toward the town of Cervantes, they were ambushed by elements of the New People's Army. Nine soldiers were killed, and three wounded, including the team leader, 2nd Lt. Emmanuel Latay. The ceremonies were cancelled and the Battle for Bessang Pass was forgotten. To this date, I am not aware of any senior officer who has been punished for such an embarrassment involving national honor and dignity.

From an operational point of view, one can only lay the blame for the unfortunate incident on complacency, non-observance of basic rules in troop movement through infiltrated areas, poor intelligence work, and less-than-dedicated leadership.

* * *

Last week, I mentioned that 2005 was a terrible year for the Armed Forces of the Philippines. We suffered more casualties—more than 400 officers and men killed in action (KIA)—than at any time during the last 30 years of a seemingly endless battle against insurgents and secessionist forces. In a similar period of one year alone, we lost as many soldiers as the Americans lost in Iraq. If we examine closely those casualty figures, they are mainly the result of ambushes similar to the one I just mentioned.

It is no coincidence that 2005 was also a year marked by the growing politicization of our Armed Forces, and this is reflected in the casualties suffered by the Armed Forces in the field of battle.

When military personnel are raised in an environment that provides a premium for kowtowing to politicians, when officers are being moved around in a game of musical chairs under a "revolving door" policy which takes into account mainly the interests of politicians, the Armed Forces is bound to suffer from a decline in its level of professionalism. This translates to a less effective fighting force and leads to greater casualties.

* * *

Last week, four Oakwood detainees—Capt. Nathaniel Rabonza, 1st Lieutenants Lawrence San Juan, Sonny Sarmiento and Patricio Bumidang—escaped from a Fort Bonifacio detention facility in the heart of the Army headquarters. What could be a better measure of the level of professionalism existing in the Army today? The embarrassing escapade came after a similar incident, that happened only last month when Marine Captain Nicanor Faeldon left his captors in Makati City. Earlier, 2nd Lt. Junnibert Tubo, also with the Marines, flew the coop and, to this day, he has not been captured. So there have actually been three capers from the Oakwood group. Although Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita was quoted as saying that he was not "overly alarmed" by the incident, the escape triggered a Palace meeting that lasted until 3 a.m.

The Army commander, Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. told reporters that the military had known about the escape plans, but that the lawyer of the officers had engaged security officials in legal discussions which allowed the officers time to slip away. In July, the current AFP chief of staff, Gen. Generoso Senga, will be retiring. Esperon is the leading candidate to replace him but, after this incident, I am not too sure if we should entrust national security to someone who comes up with such an outrageous line of reasoning. Heaven help the Armed Forces if this is the best we can do! But having said that, come July, I am sure Esperon will be named AFP chief of staff. He is one of the *niño bonitos* of this administration, and even without the "Hello, Garci" report of the AFP inspector general, he was designated Army commander. What's a few more snafus under his belt? Whatever happened to the principle of command responsibility?

* * *

The latest Senate hearings on the wiretapping by our intelligence service confirms my observations last week that Isafp is the most politicized unit in the AFP today. (For some reason, I am inclined to believe Marietta Santos, girlfriend of T/Sgt. Vidal Doble, rather than someone like Virgilio Garcillano.) So far, the officers and men have been shielded from any legislative inquiries by Executive Order No. 464; but once the Supreme Court settles the issue, we shall be hearing more about Isafp's activities. By the way, last week my telephone rang at 5 a.m. When my son picked up the handset, the caller came on the line: "Isafp Miranda *po ito*. Mega Force, *ba ito*?" Taken by surprise, my son replied: "*Hindi po*, Mickey Mouse *ito*." The caller then hung up.

'MVP' is MAP's 'Management Man of the Year'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"SHOULDN'T WE REALLY BE REWARDING PEOple who exhibit good behavior?" asks Evelyn Singson, president of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), by way of explaining the choice of PLDT Chair Manuel V. Pangilinan as this year's "MAP Management Man of the Year."

In the 38 years of MAP's existence, the "Management Man of the Year" has been awarded only 27 times, an indication of the prestige accorded to the recognition and the care with which the MAP makes its choices. Each year, a board of jurors—composed of former MAP presidents—conducts a thorough search and evaluation to single out an individual in business or government who deserves recognition for "unequestioned distinction in the practice of management and for contributing to the country's progress."

Pangilinan was cited for, among other things: engineering the turnaround of PLDT and Piltel through a "disciplined 'convergence strategy' consisting of consolidation, diversification and expansion"; substantially enhancing shareholder value in PLDT shares in both the Philippine Stock Exchange and the New York Stock Exchange; spearheading PLDT's emergence as "one of Asia's most recognized, admired, innovative and best performing telecommunication companies"; spurring investor interest in the Philippines by bringing First Pacific Company and other foreign investors into the Philippines; and for an "outstanding career that spans business, academe, charitable, non-government, arts and culture, sports and health organizations."

* * *

IN A TALK before youth leaders last month, Pangilinan shared his personal vision of what business leadership was all about. Business leaders, he said, have the obligation "to engage in your own activism—one that hopefully emphasizes poverty reduction...and lightens up on politics."

When First Pacific invested in PLDT seven years ago, he recalled, "we faced a massive task of turning it around. There were plenty of critics who told us that we couldn't change the culture of monopoly, that corruption in PLDT couldn't be eradicated, that our fixed lines had no future. There were times when we were tempted to let go our grip because it would have been easier to be just comfortable with the way things always were...(But) we stayed the course in PLDT, made the tough and unpopular decisions and held firm our moral fiber. Now that PLDT has been turned around and is the most profitable company in the country, my confidence in the Filipino's ability to succeed, by doing the right thing, has been absolutely affirmed."

Pangilinan joins a roster of previous awardees who compose the elite of the country's business leaders and have headed some of the country's biggest and most admired companies and institutions. But "Management Man of the Year" isn't just a generic title because so far, all of the awardees have been men. I don't think this is necessarily the result of bias on the part of the jurors, but more likely a reflection of the absence (still) of women in the top tiers of management in this country.

Things are looking up, though. Singson happens to be the first woman elected president of MAP, though when Roberto de Ocampo was appointed finance secretary, Cora dela Paz (now SSS chair) took over as president. If the worthies of MAP can bring themselves to vote in a woman as president, then perhaps the day isn't too far away when a woman will be bestowed this most prestigious award.

* * *

LATE last year, I wrote about the search for recipients of the "Silver Star for Women," to be given out on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Women's Health Care Foundation. The "Silver Stars" were recently awarded, and I'm happy to note that a number of the awardees are personal friends whose valuable work in the field of reproductive health and rights has long been acknowledged by the community, though rarely given the publicity they deserve.

Among the awardees are:

In the field of family planning, Dr. Virgilio Oblepias recognized for his "excellent management" of the Fertility Care Center at the Mary Johnston Hospital, as well as for his stint as executive director of the UP-PGH Reproductive Health Center, and for his pioneering efforts to promote sterilization services around the country;

For male involvement in reproductive health, Dr. Jonathan David "Jondi" Flavier, for "his leadership in planning, directing and managing the Philippine program that shifted the focus from bilateral tubal ligation for women to no-scalpel vasectomy for men"; and Ariel Castro, for leadership which "resulted in the institutionalization of RH@Work among unions of the TUCP, ensuring "the availability of reproductive health information and services for workers and their dependents."

* * *

DRS. Margarita Holmes and Michael Tan were awardees for "Gender and Sexuality." Margie was recognized for "her efforts to bring to the 'common *tao*' dispassionate, honest and accessible information and opinion on gender and sexuality"; and Mike for "his contributions to a better understanding of the cultural aspects of gender and sexuality" as well as his role as a consultant in the Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFS3).

Recognized for her work on reproductive tract cancers was Dr. Genara Manuel-Limson, a leading researcher, educator and service provider, especially on cervical cancer.

In the field of media advocacy, recognized were: Ces Oreña Drilon for television; Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz, managing editor of the Sunday Inquirer Magazine, for print; Alma dela Rosa for video production; and Fe Nicodemus for radio.

Among the institutions awarded were the Women's Crisis Center in the field of violence against women, the UP Population Institute and the Foundation for Adolescent Development.

The tragedy of people power

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

IT IS AMAZING HOW PEOPLE POWER, A FORM of non-violent political action that Filipinos accidentally developed in their struggle against a dictatorship, has suddenly become an embarrassment to its inventors. Rather than draw strength and renewed commitment from its remembrance, those who mounted it, only feel disgust now. Its prime beneficiaries—those who came to power on its wings—fear it above all. Instead of heroism, they associate it with recklessness. Instead of the sacrifice, they only see the bid for power. Unable to praise it, they denigrate it. Such is the tragedy of people power.

A group of activists from Akbayan and Laban ng Masa dutifully showed up the other day at the People Power Monument, with placards bearing the single message: "Spirit of Edsa betrayed by Gloria." Implicit in that note at least is a continuing belief in some Edsa spirit, however we may understand it. In contrast, Malacañang would rather forget all about Edsa. Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye says "the people are losing faith in people power," dismissing it as "reckless gambles at power." How perspectives shift with time!

What happened? The skepticism arises from two basic sources. The first is the natural confusion between the action and its outcomes. The second is the amorphous and ephemeral nature of people power itself.

If we examine the events leading to Edsa I in February 1986 and Edsa II in January 2001, we will note that the overthrow of both regimes was the culmination of a series of mass actions and media events that fed one another. A government is toppled and a new one is installed. People power is responsible only for the former. It cannot be held accountable for the kind of government that is put in place upon the exit of the old one. The formation of a new government, even before the dust settles, is typically the outcome of complex behind-the-scenes negotiations participated in by a motley group of mediators, powerbrokers, institutional figures (business, church, military) and politicians. Some of these have close links with the social movements and organizations that sparked the mass actions. But many are mere brokers—self-styled technicians of the transition—who specialize in forging instant agreements and formulating legal solutions.

There is nothing wrong with people power: it is the purest expression of the democratic dictum that sovereignty ultimately resides in the people. But, precisely because of its amorphous and ephemeral character, people power lacks the capacity to assert its own authority. Unlike the old socialist movements that were driven by organized parties with clear visions and leadership structures, the social movements that trigger today's people power explosions are at best coalitions of the loosest kind. They evaporate as soon as the immediate goal of toppling the government is achieved. They play only the most marginal role in the formation of the new government, and, ironically, none at all in the institutionalization of the goals and values that they fought for.

In a sense, people can hardly be faulted for folding their banners and going back to what they were doing as soon as the crisis has passed. It is natural for them to wish to be freed of the responsibility of making daily decisions about governmental programs and policies. No appeal to active citizenship can override their belief that the responsibility for rebuilding a nation belongs mainly to the qualified and trustworthy leaders that the people have freely chosen.

It is certainly a weakness of people power that it is impervious to institutionalization. Yet it is also its strength. The lack of a power-orientation enables the struggle against an oppressive and/or dishonest regime to proceed without being hampered by questions of how to allocate power in the new dispensation. People implicitly trust in the good sense of the leaders they catapult to power. But if the past has any lesson to teach, it can only be that trust is not enough.

It is a powerful virtue that people protest because the values they cherish are being violated, and not because they seek to replace those against whom they are protesting. But for a protest to have any enduring force, it must resist the temptation of giving up its advocacy—be it human rights, good government, or social equity—when the regime it is criticizing has collapsed. Protest must become a system of its own; it must ceaselessly recruit its own supporters, and continue the analysis and criticism of society from the standpoint of its chosen value.

Herein perhaps lies the vulnerability of the two failed Edsa governments of 1986 and 2001. In both instances, the new government that was put in place quickly tapped the leaders of the social movements for various positions. Their recruitment was done on an individual basis, mostly as political compensation, rather than as an integral part of a plan to implement a coherent and alternative program. This immediately disarmed and demobilized the protest movements, which had served as the driving force of people power. The momentum of reform came to a halt as soon as government operations normalized.

It is difficult to imagine people power being pressed into a permanent organization. It may catalyze the formation of new parties and of new governments, but it cannot be wedded to the fortunes of a party or a government.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Coasting

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

I LIKE TO THINK OF MYSELF AS A FEMINIST. I PAY MY own way, I believe I deserve equal rights, and I know that I'm perfectly capable of opening doors (even if I've demonstrated otherwise time and again). However, I will state for the record that I'm also a 20-year-old romantic, which is why I'm perfectly willing to leave the complicated process of pulling out chairs and carrying heavy furniture to the manlier half of the species.

I'm told that there are very few gentlemen left in the world. The breed died out along with elephant pants, platform boots and Michael Jackson's nerve endings. I've discovered, however, that there is one last bastion of chivalry left, the final outpost where both the meek and strong become heroes on white chargers. Or something like that.

Last Friday, I took a 7:15 p.m. train to Ayala from Quezon Avenue. By the time the MRT hit Kamuning, the aisle was packed and no one was budging. A full minute passed, then a lanky man in old jeans and rumpled shirt stood up and gestured to a woman to take his seat. The woman smiled gratefully and sat. All of a sudden, throughout the single car, young men started getting up one at a time to give up seats to older women. I counted five. I wanted to join in, but the only one I could stand up for was a man in his early 60s who looked like he might smack me with an umbrella if I offered a seat.

It's been a little less than a year since my first ride alone on a train. There I was, clutching my backpack against my chest and repeating a friend's directions inside my head. Up the escalator, through the gate, to the yellow arrow at the furthest end of the platform. It took four tries (and a sympathetic security guard) to get the ticket through the slot properly.

When I finally plopped down in relief on the blue plastic bench, I was flushed with victory. I was paying P14 to get across three different cities, had conquered a new world and freed myself from the slavery of evil taxi drivers who refused to give me much, much more than P14 in change.

I've always been the type who can fall asleep given five minutes and a moving vehicle. I slap myself conscious in buses and jeeps, and put on enormous shades in spite of gray skies to hide the fact I'm dead to the world. On the rare occasions that I'm awake in the train, I pass the time looking at billboards. On last count, Kris Aquino is by far on the lead (with White Cat, Leonardo, Gateway, Vicki Bello and Bench), alongside various skin whiteners, hair conditioners and the occasional half-naked female.

It's interesting to take note of the personalities who share the train's six-foot wide space while shooting across the metro. There's the guy in a baseball cap who swaggers in with earphones surgically attached to his ears. He meanders down the aisle, says "excuse me" in an unnaturally loud voice (the earphones' fault) and leans against a pole while bobbing his head to the music. To his left, balancing beautifully on kitten heels, is the perfectly dressed Makati girl, blank-faced from a day in the office, with hair "*parang nagpa*-salon." Tucked away on a corner sits the prim mother in pink trousers and pink sandals who avoids everyone's eyes and keeps her hands folded nervously on her lap. Sales ladies in stockings and rubber slippers sit with paper bags stuffed with their high-heeled sandals on their laps.

Leaning against a wall is the perpetual couple, whose male component assumes the role of a seatbelt. There's the chubby schoolboy in glasses wedged away in a corner, and the twenty-something males with slicked back hair. All of them are entertained by the inevitable chatty ones, who manage to divulge the story of their lives and loves between Ayala and Ortigas, and continue with the lives and loves of their bosses until the Cubao station.

As I'm half-blind, can barely make out the signs at the station and have no idea what station comes after which, I'm usually in danger of missing my stop. My new remedy has the unfortunate side effect of making me look psychotic—an old lady discreetly pulled away a grandkid from beside me—but it works. I could hardly explain that I wasn't mumbling incantations under my breath. I was actually singing the train stations' names in sequence—to the tune of Mambo Number 5. So it's one two, three four five, everybody ride into North A-ve-nue!

When Dante wrote his "Inferno" and classified the nine circles of hell, he described each one according to the punishment meted out. I would like to propose a 10th level—something I'm sure he would have added had he lived a few hundred years more. The 21st century has its own contribution to the torments of damnation: the MRT during the 5:30-8:30p.m.-weekday rush hour.

When you take the MRT between those hours, for 20 minutes, time stops and you become the loneliest, most uncomfortable person in the world. You stand in the middle of two-dozen people in a space built for 10. The air is hot and stifling, even with the air conditioner bravely sputtering along. There's that heart-clutching dread that comes each time the doors slide open and a fresh batch joins the sweaty huddle inside. The only plus is that there is no danger of falling over. When you have your nose shoved against someone's chest, and your elbow against what could be someone's boob, butt or gut, you're sure there's bound to be something to break your fall.

But hey—I'd take those 20 minutes over two hours in traffic, paying six times the amount. Now that's the 11th level.

I've always had an affection for roller coasters. There's the breathless anticipation, the moment of absolute silence when the world slows down as the coaster makes its shuddering way up the steep incline. The long drop is just ahead, the stomach-churning, mind-blowing ride that has you screaming with promises to every saint in heaven. But for the moment, the plunge is yet to come, and there's only a few prayers to say, and the mix of anticipation and apprehension.

Someone once laughed at me for treating the MRT like a roller coaster. In the long, long day when everything and everyone has to move faster than a speeding bullet, it's funny that it's inside that bullet that people can slow down.

So for 20 minutes, I take a deep breath, before the train stops, and I plunge back into the fury and the madness.

It's worth the P14-fare.

* * *

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Economic costs of the Iraq war

THE COST OF THE IRAQ WAR TO THE UNITED STATES IS FAR BIGGER THAN the $200 billion that Larry Lindsey, President George W. Bush's economic adviser, estimated as the US was preparing to go to war three years ago.

Then Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz claimed that Lindsey's figure was a gross overestimation and that Iraq could "really finance its own reconstruction."

Like the Bush administration's intelligence on Saddam Hussein's "weapons of mass destruction," its estimate of the cost of the war was way off the mark.

Joseph Stiglitz of the University of Columbia and Linda Bilmes of Harvard University place the total cost of the war to America at more than a trillion dollars.

The total cost of the Iraq war rises to a staggering $1.8 trillion when the direct expenditures and the macroeconomic costs, including the increased price of oil, are combined according to Stiglitz and Bilmes.

Like the US and other countries, the Philippines is paying for the costs of the Iraq war through high oil prices. Stiglitz and Bilmes estimate that $5 to $10 of the price of a barrel of crude is due to Iraq.

Their estimate of the total cost of the war does not include all costs borne by other countries, including Iraq, and costs associated with increased insecurity, reduced investment, and lower incomes of America's trading partners to name a few.

An appraisal three years after the beginning of the conflict

By Linda Bilmes
Kennedy School, Harvard University
and Joseph E. Stiglitz
Professor, Columbia University

THIS PAPER ATTEMPTS TO PROVIDE a more complete reckoning of the costs of the Iraq war than have previously been provided, using standard economic and budgetary frameworks. Of course, a final tally will have to wait the end, and even the President [George W. Bush] has made it clear that there is no clear end in sight. And even then, it will be years before we can be sure about whether our estimates of future costs—increased costs of recruiting or payments for disability or the health care costs of the injured veterans—were accurate.

We have not been able to quantify many of what may turn out to be the most important costs of the Iraq venture. There is a value in military preparedness, and it is the reason for investing so heavily in defense. By most accounts, America's ability to engage in a second front at the current time is greatly diminished. At the beginning of the war, there was a great deal of talk about winning the hearts and minds of those in the Middle East. Recent opinion polls reflecting public opinion in the Arab world show that exactly the opposite has happened. Some American businesses have even claimed that anti-Americanism spawned by the Iraq war has had an effect on their sales and profits. America's credibility has been diminished: if some time in the future another American President were to claim that he had solid evidence based on intelligence that there was a threat, that evidence is more likely to be treated with skepticism.

America has always prided itself in fighting for human rights; but America's credentials have been tarnished by Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo. These are among the many costs of the Iraq war that we do not attempt to quantify, but which should clearly be counted in any assessment of the war.

We have not included in this paper any of the costs borne directly by other countries, either directly (as a result of military expenditures) or indirectly (as a result of the increase in the price of oil.) Most importantly, we have not included the costs of the war to Iraq, either in terms of destruction of property (infrastructure, housing) or the loss of lives. Clearly, including these would increase the cost of the war substantially—perhaps by an order of magnitude.

I. Budgetary costs

The budgetary costs of the war reflect the huge scale of operations that are being undertaken. For the first half of 2005, there were over 200,000 US military personnel stationed in Iraq and Kuwait (which serves as a staging ground for Iraq). To date, over 550,000 troops have served in Iraq in a combined total of approximately one million tours of duty.

The costs of the war in Iraq that have been reported in the media have almost exclusively focused on one type of cost—the $251 billion in cash that the government has spent on combat operations since the invasion of Iraq in March 2003. This is an important element of the financial cost but it is only the tip of a very deep iceberg.

Currently, the US is spending about $6 billion per month on operations in Iraq. However, there are additional costs to the government over and above this number. These include disability payments to veterans over the course of their lifetimes, the cost of replacing military equipment and munitions which are being consumed at a faster-than-normal rate, the cost of medical treatment for returning Iraqi war veterans, particularly the more than 7,000 servicemen with brain, spinal, amputation and other serious injuries, and the cost of transporting returning troops back to their home bases.

The Defense Department, for which expenditures not directly appropriated for Iraq have grown by more than five percent since the war began, has also spent a portion of this increase on support for the war in Iraq, including significantly higher recruitment costs, such as nearly doubling the number of recruiters, paying recruitment bonuses of up to $40,000 for new enlistees and paying special bonuses and other benefits, up to $150,000 for current troops that re-enlist. Another cost to the government is the interest on the money that it has borrowed to finance the war.

Although it is difficult to estimate these costs precisely, we can use current and expected troop deployment to make a reasonable projection of the likely costs. *Looking purely at direct budgetary costs to the taxpayer, we estimate that the total cost of the Iraq war is in the range of $750 billion to $1.1 trillion*, assuming that the US begins to withdraw troops in 2006 and maintains a diminishing presence in Iraq for the next five years. We have looked at the budgetary cost both including and excluding the cost of interest on the debt. We have also adjusted this cost for economic factors. Under any reasonable set of assumptions, the cost of the war even without considering the macroeconomic costs—is more than double the current number provided by the administration.

We have estimated the budgetary costs using two scenarios. Both scenarios are based on the troop deployment projected by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). Our "conservative" scenario assumes that all troops will be withdrawn from Iraq by 2010, and that all interest on the debt borrowed to finance the war will be repaid within five years. Under this scenario we count the long-term costs of disability pay and health care for veterans over a 20-year period, even though most of the troops in Iraq are between ages 21 and 28 and are likely to live far longer. We have taken the present value of all cash flows at a four-percent discount rate. Even under this conservative scenario, the direct costs to the government are likely to exceed $700 billion. (*See Figure 1*).

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO/PAGE DESIGN BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Figure 1. Budgetary cost of the Iraq war

	Conservative	Moderate
Spent to date	$251 billion	$251 billion
Future spending on operations	200	271
VA costs	40	57
Cost for brain injuries	14	35
Veterans disability payments	37	122
Demobilization costs	6	8
Increased defense spending	104	139
Interest on debt	98	386
Total	750	1,269

Figure 2. Total economic costs of the Iraq war

Scenario	Conservative	Moderate
Direct costs	$839 billion	$1.104 trillion
Macroeconomic	187 billion	750 billion
Total	1.026 trillion	1.854 trillion

Under a "moderate" scenario, we have used CBO's assumption that a small but continuous US presence in Iraq continues through 2015. This has implications for the projected number of casualties and the length of involvement by the Defense Department. This scenario also assumes that the US budget will remain in deficit for the next 20 years. This would raise the cost of the war to over $1.0 trillion.

Assumptions for Figure 1:

1. Spending to date

on combat and support operations

The total spending as of Dec. 30, 2005 was $251 billion. This includes funds appropriated specifically for Iraq in emergency supplemental appropriations in April 2002, November 2003, August 2004, April 2005, and the Continuing Resolution of September 2005, which covers the first six weeks of fiscal year (FY) 2006. This money includes funding for combat operations, basic troop deployments and logistics, deployment of National Guard and Reserves, food and supplies, training of Iraqi forces, weapons, munitions, supplementary combat pay, reconstruction, and payments to countries such as Jordan, Pakistan and Turkey. This also includes the payment of $500,000 in "death gratuity payment" and life insurance to the survivors of the 2,156 fatalities in Iraq during this period. We have not included the costs to the Defense Department for planning the invasion in the months prior to the invasion, which the Congressional Research Service has estimated at $2.5 billion.

2. Future spending

on combat and support operations

We have estimated the cost of future operations to be proportional to the number of troops scheduled to be deployed in Iraq from 2006 to 2010. We have estimated the current number of troops stationed in Iraq as 160,000, using the number cited by the Pentagon. Future troop deployment figures are based on recent forecasts by the CBO, which predicts that troop levels in 2006 will be reduced to 136,000. The CBO has forecast troop levels through 2015, but in the conservative scenario we are assuming that all troops are out of Iraq by 2010. However, this approach almost certainly underestimates the actual cost of military operations, because the Pentagon will hire contractors to replace some portion of the activities performed by troops who are withdrawn. In our moderate scenario, we have assumed that the US maintains a small troop presence until 2015, that we increase the number of contractors as troops decline, and that casualties continue, proportional to troop deployment.

3. Additional VA medical care

costs for returning veterans

As of December 2005, over 16,000 military personnel have been wounded in Iraq since March 2003, of whom 96 percent were injured after the official combat operations ceased (since May 1, 2003). Due to improvements in body armor that protect the core body, there has been an unusually high number of soldiers who have survived with major injuries, such as brain damage, spinal injuries, and amputations. According to the Pentagon and other sources, about 20 percent of those injured have suffered major head or spinal injury and an additional 6 percent are amputees. Another 21 percent suffered serious wounds that prevented them from returning to the military, including blindness, deafness, partial vision and hearing impairments, nerve damage and burns. In addition, more than half of the 550,000 US troops who have served in Iraq have served two or three tours of continuous duty under stressful, grueling conditions. Some 20,000 soldiers have been prevented from leaving the service by the government's "stop-loss" policy, which requires troops to extend their tours in case of emergency.

It is perhaps not surprising that the surgeon general of the Army reported, in July 2005, that 30 percent of US troops have developed mental health problems within three to four months of returning from Iraq.

The number we include here represents a conservative estimate of the additional costs to the Veterans Administration (VA) due to providing medical care and other benefits (such as rehabilitation, retraining, purchase, fitting and replacement of prosthetic devices, and counseling—but not including disability, housing, educational or loan payments) to returning Iraqi war veterans (other than those with brain injuries). The costs of treatment could be substantial. The VA had originally projected that 23,553 veterans returning from Iraq would seek medical care last year, but in June 2005, the VA revised this number to 103,000. The VA also is now responsible for providing care to an estimated 90,000 National Guards, who previously were not eligible for VA services.

To meet these unforeseen demands, the VA appealed to Congress for an emergency $1.5 billion in funding for FY 2005. The VA is likely to face a shortfall of $2.6 billion in 2006. While not all the additional health care expenditures may in fact be directly linked to the Iraq war, it will be difficult not to provide the requested medical care. We assume that this need will continue and increase to $3 billion as the veterans return home, and that the VA will require this additional level of funding added to its base budget. (We expect that this figure is significantly understated.)

The additional cost of providing benefits to Iraqi war veterans will become a major challenge for the VA. In our conservative scenario we have estimated that all troops are withdrawn by 2010 and these costs for 20 years; in the moderate scenario we have assumed that troops continue to be deployed through 2015 and these costs continue throughout the lifetime of the veterans (40 years).

4. Treating brain injuries

There is a special category of health care expenditures that go beyond those included in the above calculation—for those with brain injuries. To date, 3,213 people—20 percent of those injured in Iraq—have suffered head and brain injuries that require lifetime continual care at a cost range of $600,000 to $5 million. The government will be required to commit resources through intensive care facilities, round-the-clock home or institutional care, rehabilitation and assisted living for these veterans.

For the conservative estimate, we have used a midpoint estimate of a net present value of $2.7 million over a 20-year expected survival rate for this group, which is about $135,000 per year, yielding a cost of $14 billion. This amount seems low for brain-injured individuals who will require round-the-clock care in feeding, dressing and daily functioning. For the moderate estimate, we use a higher cost estimate ($4 million) and assume longer life duration for a total cost of $35 billion. In both cases we assume that the number injured will rise in a manner consistent with the duration of the conflict.

5. Disability pay

Veterans of the Iraq war are eligible to claim disability pay and benefits, ranging up to a maximum of about $44,000 per year, under a complex formula administered by the VA. It is important to note that that Congressional intent for disability payments is to "compensate for a reduction in quality of life due to service-connected disability payment of this disability." The benefit is intended to "provide compensation for average impairment in earnings capacity"—but it does not require the veteran to actively seek employment nor is it offset against post-military civilian earning. The principle dates back to the Bible at Exodus 21:25, which authorizes financial compensation for pain inflicted by another.

In the Iraq conflict, more depleted uranium was used in the bombing of Baghdad than in the Persian Gulf conflict; therefore the Iraq war veterans will be easily eligible for disability claims for any health problems that they can link to exposure. As we noted earlier, more than one-third of returning veterans have used the VA system for health ailments. We have estimated that those with serious injuries would receive the maximum disability benefits from the VA, those with medium-serious injuries would receive half those benefits ($22,000), and one-third of the remaining forces would receive the average benefit awarded to the Gulf War veterans, or $11,834. This sums to an annual payment of $2.3 billion.

6. Cost of demobilization

The Pentagon has announced plans to reduce troop levels from their current force of over 160,000 to around 140,000 in the next year, and we have assumed that this withdrawal will continue gradually as outlined by the CBO. This will in itself require direct payments of $6 billion to $10 billion for the transportation and demobilization of troops, returning them to their home bases, or civilian roles (in the case of Reserves).

7. Increased defense spending

Since 2002, the total appropriations for the Defense Department have increased from $310 billion to $420 billion, representing a total cumulative increase of $325 billion. Portions of the FY 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 appropriations bills, as well as FY 2003 and FY 2004 transfers, have been appropriated for Iraq. In total, we estimate that 30 percent of the $325 billion increase has been devoted to Iraq. This figure covers increased military pay, research and development, recruitment, operations and maintenance and replacement of equipment. According to Pentagon estimates, the military is wearing out equipment at a rate that is four to five times the rate of usage in noncombat situations. Additionally, the CBO has estimated that the military will require some $100 billion in replacements over the next five to 10 years.

In our estimates, we have attributed one-third of the increase in defense spending to Iraq, minus the savings from no longer policing the no-fly zone to the Pentagon. Savings from the no-fly zone have been estimated to be from $11 billion to $15 billion per year. Given that the department is highly focused on the outcome of the war in Iraq, we estimate that up to one-half of the increase in the defense spending may be related to Iraq, but we have used only 30 percent of the spending in our conservative and moderate scenarios.

In addition, this increase reflects the military's increasing difficulty in recruiting troops and officers at all levels since the beginning of the Iraq conflict. During 2005, the Army was below target for most of the year, and actually lowered its targets in order to achieve them. There were shortfalls in the Army National Guard, Army Reserves, and Marine Reserves. Applications to West Point and the US Naval Academy also fell between 10 and 25 percent from previous years. The military has responded to this challenge by hiring thousands of additional recruiters, increasing its national advertising campaigns, offering sign-up bonuses of up to $40,000 for new recruits, offering higher retirement and disability benefits, increasing the "death gratuity" to $100,000, and providing re-enlistment bonuses of up to $150,000 for experienced troops (who might otherwise leave the military to join private contractors who would pay even higher amounts).

In further efforts to boost recruitment, the Pentagon increased the maximum enlistment age from 35 to 42 and relaxed standards for appearance and behavior, making it more difficult to be fired. The cost to the military per recruit has increased from $14,500 in 2003 to $17,500 in 2005. Hardship pay has been increased from $300 to $750 per month. We assume that the military will need to make these changes permanent, adding at least $1 billion to $2 billion per year into the permanent budget base. Additional increases include military pay raises, and the purchase of more expensive body armor for combat.

8. Interest payments on debt

Given that at the onset of the war, the country was already running a deficit, and no new taxes have been levied, it is not unreasonable to assume, for purposes of budgeting, that all of the funding for the war to date has been borrowed, adding to the already existing federal budget deficit. In the conservative scenario we assume that these funds are borrowed at four percent and repaid in full within five years. The moderate scenario assumes that the country continues to have a deficit over the next 20 years and therefore interest continues to accrue.

II. Costs of war to US economy:

Adjustments to budgetary estimates

A second way to measure the cost of the war is to examine its economic cost. Economic costs differ from budgetary costs in three ways: (a) costs are borne by others (than the federal government and those fighting in the war), and these are obviously excluded from the budgetary costs to the federal government; (b) the prices paid by the government do not reflect full market value; and (c) economic costs do not include interest payments (which can be viewed just as transfer payments), but do include long-run impact on the growth of the economy. For instance, in the days of the draft, payments to soldiers were a vast underestimate of their opportunity costs. Health care costs borne by soldiers and their familie are examples of costs borne by others.

Here, we focus on the loss of productive capacity of the young Americans who have been killed or seriously wounded in Iraq, and the loss of civilian wages that would have been earned by those called back to duty in the Reserve forces.

There are some "problematic" items within the budgetary costs, most notably expenditures on veterans not linked with the Iraq war. The best way to think of this is as part of deferred compensation, and therefore, while the "categorization"—repairing human damage as a result of the war—is incorrect, it is still part of the cost of the war.

In the conservative case, the adjustments add $187 billion to budgetary cost—raising the cost to $839 billion, even when subtracting the entire cost of interest payments. In the moderate case, the economic adjustments increase costs by $305 billion. Even if we deduct the cost of interest, the cost of the war under this scenario exceeds $1 trillion. But these calculations ignore the fact that some of the resources deployed in the war could have been used to promote economic growth, and that there are broad range of macroeconomic costs, the effec of which is to increase the economic costs c the war by a significant amount.

The cost of the war to the United State before taking macroeconomic factors into account, can therefore be estimated under a variety of assumptions to fall between $700 billion and $1 trillion dollars.

(Excerpts from a 36-page paper of the same t tle the authors presented at the meeting of tl Allied Social Sciences Association in Bosto Massachusetts on Jan 8.)

MEDEL HERNANI/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

HOPE FOR A TRIBE
Men of the Matigsalog tribe of Compostela Valley carry across the Naboc River a part of a dismantled corn mill that the tribe would assemble in their village . The tribesmen carried the metal parts of the mill through rugged terrain for 11 hours. ***(See story on Page A16)***

Nur men vow not to attack US soldiers

PANAMAO, SULU—FOLLOWERS OF JAILED Moro leader Nur Misuari have pledged not to attack US soldiers participating in the month-long humanitarian mission in the province, which is due to start on Feb. 6.

Ustadz Habier Malik, who figured in clashes against Filipino soldiers late last year, and six other ranking leaders of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), gave the assurance before Southern Command deputy chief Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino.

Dolorfino came here on Friday to deliver a letter to the local MNLF from Nur Misuari.

In his letter, Misuari ordered MNLF leaders in Sulu to "maintain peace and security in the island" while the Balikatan Humanitarian program is being conducted.

In the letter, the jailed Moro leader said the Balikatan would only focus on the conduct of "medical and engineering civic actions for the benefit of the people."

He said MNLF forces should "stay put in their camps to avoid any untoward incident."

At least 200 US troops, mostly doctors and engineers, would be arriving here for the mission that would last until March 6.

"It's our responsibility to follow. We cannot violate Nur Misuari's order," Malik told reporters during a press conference held at the MNLF's Camp Jabal Uhod in Barangay Bitanag here.

Malik, who was flanked by about 600 armed MNLF combatants, also gave assurances he will relay the information to other members of the MNLF and their families.

"There is no problem about relaying the information to our people. At least it became clear to all of us here that there would be no war games contrary to what has been reported," he said.

Malik said they were earlier told that the US government was to send 5,000 armed American soldiers to Sulu to run after armed groups, including his.

"We definitely objected to that. But it was clarified that only about 200 of them, mostly doctors and engineers would be arriving. We felt relieved," he said.

But Malik said they might not follow Misuari's order to stay in the camp.

"What about our forces who want to avail of medical and dental services?" he said. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

₱700M in savings seen with new geothermal plant

BACOLOD CITY—THE GOVERNMENT could save up to P780 million in money spent for importing oil as soon as the geothermal plant in Bago City, Negros Occidental begins to operate next year.

Joey Higgins, Philippine National Oil Company-Energy Development Corp. -(PNOC-EDC) spokesperson, said the construction of the 40-megawatt geothermal power plant in Sitio Pata-an, Barangay Mailum in Bago City is 31 percent complete.

The power plant, which is capable of lighting up 800,000 households, will supply the power needs of northern Negros, which currently gets the bulk of its electricity from the Palimpinon geothermal power plant in Negros Oriental, Higgins said.

The P8 billion geothermal development project, which started in 1995, has a life span of 15 to 20 years, Higgins said.

Other benefits derived from the construction of geothermal power plant include the electrification of 50 barangays in Negros Occidental that never had electricity under the PNOC-EDC's expanded rural electrification program, he said.

Higgins said the host communities would also receive royalty, which could enable them to lower or subsidize the cost of electricity.

The PNOC-EDC will also continue to finance health, education, livelihood and environment management projects in the host community, he added. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Lafayette to open own probe of mining spill

LEGAZPI CITY—THE NEW MANAGEMENT of Lafayette Philippines Inc.'s Rapu-Rapu (Albay) project will conduct its own inquiry into the two mine spills last year, starting with a water chemical analysis.

Water samplings in Rapu-Rapu will be taken by Lafayette's team on Monday in a parallel test with an independent team led by the University of the Philippines and the Department of Science and Technology.

Lafayette chair and president Carlos Dominguez immediately agreed and promised full cooperation when asked by Sorsogon officials if the UP-DOST team could go to the Rapu-Rapu project to get water samples.

He held a series of meetings with government and Church officials, and private sector representatives of Sorsogon and Albay earlier this week.

A key advocate of the Bantay Dagat program, which he pushed when he was still agriculture secretary during the Aquino administration, Dominguez asked the officials to give him time to address the concerns of the communities.

He said he wanted to know what really happened and why and who were accountable so he could make the proper decisions to prevent their recurrence and protect the surrounding communities.

Water samples off Sorsogon facing Rapu-Rapu island-town will also be taken to help resolve issues about fish being killed as a result of mercury contamination.

Lafayette does not use mercury in its operations, Dominguez stressed.

He said it is important to settle this issue so accountability could be properly established and preventive measures be taken in case the mercury is traced to other sources.

"We cannot be the convenient whipping boy for everything that ails the communities. We need to be guided by scientific tests to make the right decisions. We will help in these tests and whatever the findings, we will help the fishermen who have been affected," he said.

Dominguez asked the officials to keep an open mind and hold their judgment until the results of the chemical analysis have been released.

Leaders of the Lakas ng Maliliit na mga Mangingisda ng Bicol (Lambat-Bicol) and its parent federation—the militant fisherfolk alliance Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) on Saturday, however, rejected Dominguez group's takeover of Lafayette, accusing local businessmen of acting as local dummies for the Australian mining firm. *Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education (DepEd)
SECONDARY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (SEDIP)
National Project Management Office (NPMO)
5th Floor, Bonifacio Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Ave , Pasig City
Telephone Nos 635-98-22•631-0673, Telefax No 635-9826

Loan No. 1654-PHI

INVITATION TO BID

The Republic of the Philippines, through the Department of Education, is a recipient of an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the financing of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of the loan will be utilized for eligible expenditures in the proposed **Repair and Improvement of the SEDIP Office** covering the conference room at the 3rd floor and the SEDIP staff and consultant's offices at the 4th and 5th Floors located at **Bonifacio Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City**.

ADB requires that bidders and contractors as well as the DepEd, under contracts funded with ODA loans, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contract. In pursuance of this, ADB (i) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question; and (ii) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a stated period of time, to be awarded a contract funded with ADB-ODA loans and, if it, at any time, determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt of fraudulent practices in competing for or in executing another contract financed by ADB-ODA loans.

Bidding is open to all Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) registered contractors or joint venture contractors with valid license, general building category and eligible to enter into a contract based on award.

Scope of works includes: (i) demolition of existing and affected areas, (ii) restoration works, (iii) provision of cabinets, shelves, furniture, etc. (iv) painting works, (v) electrical works, (vi) mechanical works and (vii) provision of audio-visual equipment.

Bidders may obtain further information and acquire the bidding documents from:

The Bids and Awards Committee Office
Room 508, Mabini Building, DepEd Complex
Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested and eligible bidders starting **January 16, 2006 until January 30, 2006** from **8:00 AM to 5:00 PM** upon submission of a Letter of Intent to the above office and payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 to the DepEd Cashier.

A pre-bidding conference shall be conducted on **January 30, 2006, 10:00 AM** to be held at the **Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.**

Submission of bids together with all the documents required in the bid documents must be delivered to the aforesaid venue **not later than 10:00 AM of February 14, 2006**. All bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of all the bidders or their legally authorized representatives.

(Sgd.) ATTY. MACUR MAROHOMBSAR
Vice Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-Jan 15 & 22, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION
OWWA Center Bldg., F.B. Harrison St., Cor. 7th St., Pasay City
Tel Nos. 891-7601 to 24

Section I. Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Seafarers' Identity Document (SID) Project

1. **The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration**, through the Corporate Budget for the contract intends to apply the sum of **thirty eight million pesos (PhP 38,000,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Seafarers' Identity Document (SID) Project. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. **The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Seafarers' Identity Document (SID) Project. Delivery of the GOODS is required by **March 1, 2006**. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the **Overseas Workers Welfare Administration** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

   General Administrative Services
   Third Floor, OWWA Center Building
   7th corner F.B. Harrison Streets, Pasay City
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of five thousand seven hundred pesos (PhP 5,700.00). The method of payment will be cash, manager's check or company check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. **The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **February 6, 2006 at 9:30 AM** at the **Blas F. Ople Hall, 5th Floor, OWWA Center Building, 7th corner F.B. Harrison Streets, Pasay City.**
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **February 20, 2006 at 9:30 AM**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft, irrevocable letter of credit, or bank guarantee. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. **Bid opening** shall be on **February 20, 2006 at 9:30 AM** at the **Blas F. Ople Hall, 5th Floor, OWWA Center Building**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below:

   OWWA Center Building
   7th corner F.B. Harrison Streets, Pasay City
9. The SEAFARERS' IDENTITY DOCUMENT (SID) PROJECT shall be issued to all Filipino seafarers whose contracts have been processed at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and shall conform to the standards prescribed by the International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention No. 185 of 2003, inclusive of the production of the SID card, hardware, software, systems solutions, training requirements, and technical support, as well as the commissioning and testing of the system.
10. **The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Agency	*Overseas Workers Welfare Administration*
Contact Person	*Director Ma. Lourdes V Reyes*
Address	*OWWA Center Building, 7th corner F.B. Harrison Streets, Pasay City*
Contact Number	*63-2-834-0170*
E-mail Address	**sidbidding@yahoo.com**
Facsimile Number	*63-2-833-1010*

(Sgd.) ANGELO A. JIMENEZ
Deputy Administrator and Chairperson
Joint OWWA-POEA
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – January 22 & 29, 2006)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Supply of Services thru outsourcing of One Hundred Sixty-nine (169) Blue Guards per BSP Terms of Reference
Approved Budget for the Contract	P38,127,660.00
Contract Duration One	One (1) year reckoned from the actual date of assumption of duty

Prospective bidders should have undertaken similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the *Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria*. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	23 January to 02 February 2006 at 2:00 pm
2. Pre-bid Conference	03 February 2006, 4:00 pm
3. Opening of Bids	28 February 2006, 2:00 pm
4. Bid Evaluation	) These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods
5. Post-qualification	) allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)
6. Notice of Award	) A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P19,100.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI-January 22 2006)

INQUIRER Mindanao

E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Tribe finds inspiration in corn mill

By Rolando Pinsoy
Davao City

MEMBERS OF THE MATIGSALOG TRIBE IN Naboc village in Monkayo, Compostela Valley want to survive the hardships of life without leaving their community. So when they learned that a corn mill was arriving to help increase their chances of surviving, everyone in the tribe came to see it.

Even Cantic Lantaw, 60, who rarely leaves his home, went down from the mountains to the village center to witness the turnover of the corn mill donated to them.

"It is only now that I found reason to go down here," Lantaw said.

He said that most of the young members of their tribe go down to the town center to process corn or to look for jobs, leaving only the elders like him in their community.

On the day of its arrival, all of the community members, notwithstanding the arduous 11-hour trek, participated in transporting the heavy load to the village. The women prepared the food. Children brought drinking water for the more than 20 men who carried the heavy dismantled metal parts of the corn mill. Some men helped clear the road of grass and trees. They crossed slippery creeks and rivers, walked on rough road, and climbed boulders and steep slopes. It took two days for the corn mill to arrive in Purok Bermuda in the village of Naboc where it was set up.

Along the way, a tribe member almost lost a finger in an accident.

"No hardship can dampen our spirits because we really wanted this machine and the community is very happy," said Ricky Mantikinon, the one who almost lost a finger.

FOR ABOUT 11 hours, men of the Matigsalog tribe carried metal parts of their corn mill to their village.

PHOTOS BY MEDEL HERNANI

The arrival of this piece of steel was what they have been waiting for. This farming community of the Matigsalog tribe had been prepared and trained in sustainable programs such as Farming Technical Assistance and Fishing Development, Water System Development and Food for Work.

They have long wanted to have their own corn mill so they would not have to go to the town center.

This project was funded by the European Union's Aid to Uprooted People of Mindanao Program through the Citizen's Disaster Resource Center (CDRC) and Mindanao Interfaith Services Foundation Inc. (MISFI)

The village of Naboc is located just below the gold-rush area of Diwalwal and is site of frequent clashes between communist guerrillas and government soldiers. The Matigsalog tribe is always caught in the crossfire of these clashes. Worse, they are often suspected of supporting the communist rebels.

But the tribe is just trying to peacefully settle in the mountainous area of Compostela Valley after moving out from the hinterlands of Bukidnon province for the same reason—their community teemed with government soldiers.

Not only militarization is threatening the tribe with, once again, being driven from their homes. They have been considered squatters since the area is classified as forested.

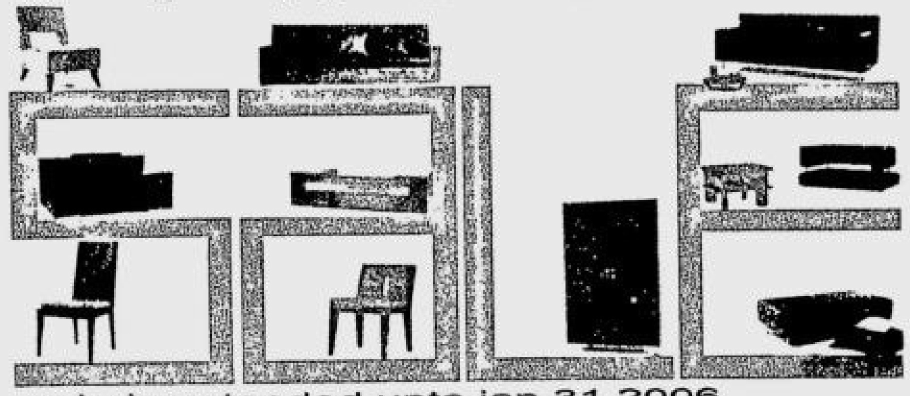
Environmental problems also threaten the lives of the lumad living in the area. Cyanide, mercury and mine tailings in the Naboc River had exposed the children and farmers to poison.

"The problem is most of the people in Naboc are not anymore living in the village. Most of them have settled in the town centers to avoid being suspected as NPA (New People's Army rebels), or look for work there," said Joe Alibangbang, a resident of the village.

The corn mill project, which is part of the Sustainable Agriculture Project of the MISFI, aims to empower a community that has been uprooted by militarization and natural disasters. The tribe is encouraged to improve farm production to raise not only food to eat, but to sell as well.

"We want to help the communities in Naboc through this project so they will be productive. We also want their frequent evacuations stopped," said MISFI's executive director Mae Fe Templa.

A MATIGSALOG hut overlooking the mountain range in Monkayo, Compostela Valley.



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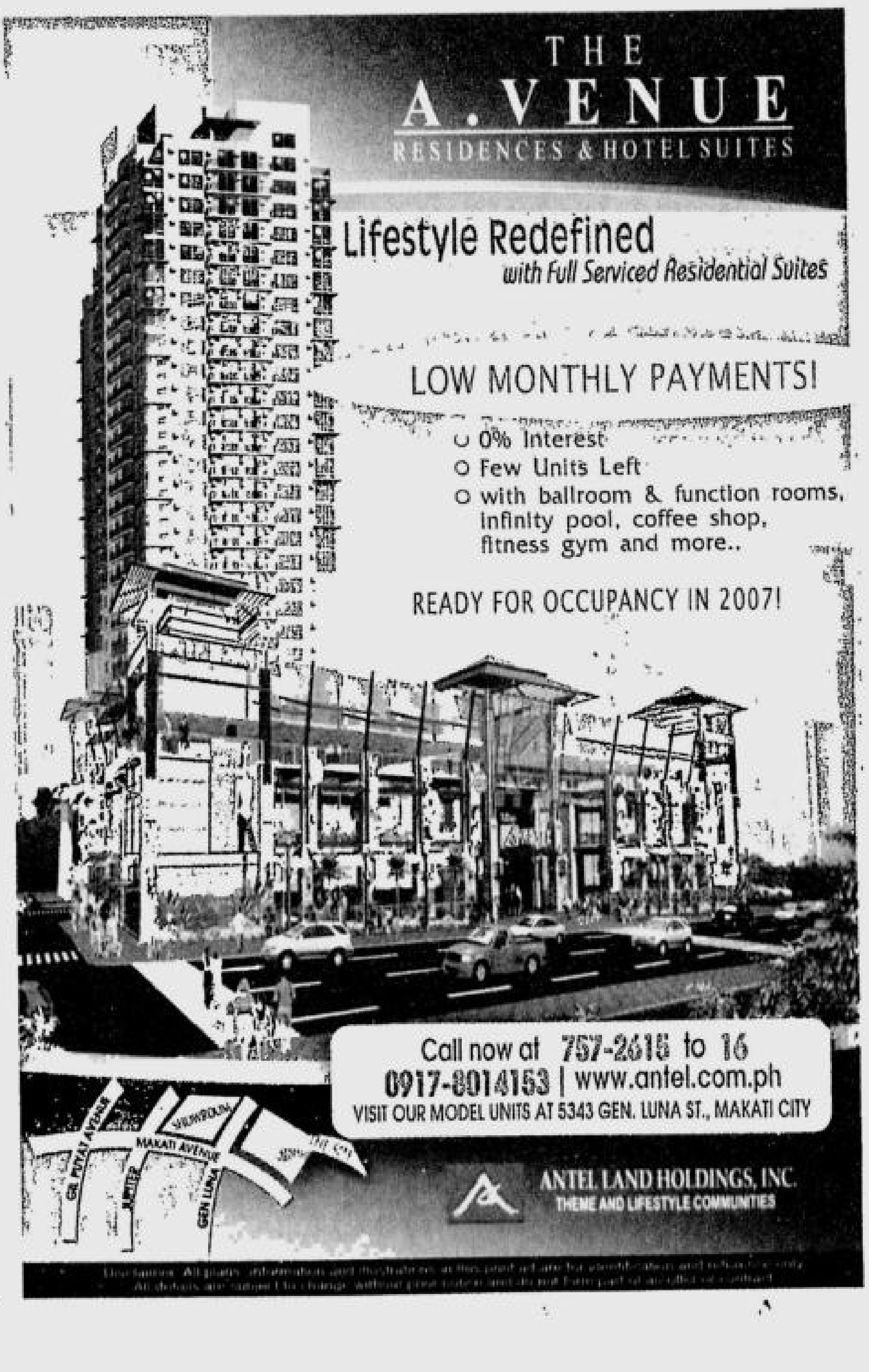

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Struggling artists find refuge in 'Kanlungan'

By Tina G. Santos

FILIPINO ARTISTS HAVE FOUND A HAVEN, right in the heart of Rizal Park.

The "Kanlungan ng Sining" may not be as famous as other landmarks in Manila, but many young, aspiring artists consider the green-canopied structure their home.

It is also where officials of the country's premier art organization, the Art Association of the Philippines (AAP), hold office.

For an entrance fee of P5, visitors to the Kanlungan may leaf through art books and periodicals in the reading corner or view the art work on display at the AAP Gallery. They may also attend art exhibits, performances and lectures or hobnob with artists and art enthusiasts from all over the country.

But more than showcasing various visual delights, the Kanlungan ng Sining, true to its name, has served as a refuge of sorts for artists, especially for those still struggling to make it in the art world.

"We have to help them. I know how it feels when you're just new in the industry. You know what they say about the life of a painter, there's no money here," said AAP president Fidel Sarmiento, a painter who has won numerous prizes for his highly realistic renderings of old colonial houses.

Right now, there are at least 20 out-of-school youth, all aspiring artists, who have turned the center into a temporary home.

"Instead of wasting their time or keeping themselves busy with vices and bad company, we encourage them to just come here so they can improve their artistic skills," Sarmiento said.

One of his "wards," the AAP president said, was a problem child who was full of angst although he showed a lot of promise artistically.

"He used to prefer dark colors, you could really see his angst in his works. But now his work depicts peace, happy images that conveyed the exact opposite of their creator's drug-suppressed angst and spiritual hunger," Sarmiento said.

AAP president Fidel Sarmiento (right) with some of the "refugees" at the Kanlungan ng Sining. ROMY HOMILLADA

AAP's young artists not only get the chance to rub elbows with the country's famous professional artists at Kanlungan, they also enjoy the privilege of being trained by them, pro bono.

"Hindi lang ang sining ang kinakanlong namin dito, pati na ang mga alagad ng sining. Pag may pera ako, salo-salo kaming kumakain, minsan pati pamasahe. Minsan, dito din natutulog ang mga bata para kahit papaano, makakatipid sila sa pamasahe, tiis nga lang sila sa lamok dito," Sarmiento said.

Jeff Salon, 19, one of the youngest members of the AAP, said, "I am at my happiest when I'm here at Kanlungan. If I'm not here, I would be out there doing vices."

Although he initially stopped schooling, Salon recently decided to continue his Fine Arts course. He is now a sophomore at the Philippine Women's University.

Maricris Davis, 23, on the other hand, was only a semester short of getting her Fine Arts degree at the University of the East when she was forced to stop due to financial problems.

"Rather than wallow in disappointment because I could not go to school, I decided to join AAP. Now, I am able to do what I love doing most and I've learned so many things not usually taught in school," she said. She added, though, that she has not given up on her dream of finishing college.

Sarmiento takes pride in saying that most of the young artists they have been training had won in several competitions.

Salon, for one, won the 2004 Petron Art Competition (painting category). Davis' recent artwork, on the other hand, is on exhibit in Malacañang.

Certainly, the lives of many of these young artists may be as bleak as some of Van Gogh's paintings. But happily, they have found a haven that has put color into their existence.

Teen animator wants to work for Disney

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TALES OF THE CITY

IN A SLUM AREA IN PASAY City, a teenager is trying to draw his way out of his grim surroundings.

Several months ago, 19-year-old Racel James Esquillo had no job, no money and was facing an uncertain future.

His situation has changed since then. After completing a rigid three-month training on professional animation conducted by Top Peg Animation and Creative Studio, an independent local animation firm, Esquillo was recently hired to work on a cartoon series as an assistant animator.

The show titled "Jobert," which will debut on Hong Kong television by the middle of the year, will hopefully take the teenager a step closer to fulfilling his ultimate dream—to work for an international animation studio like Pixar or Walt Disney.

Esquillo is happy about his accomplishment, attributing it more to God, who has endowed him with the talent, and partly, to the countless hours he spent practicing his drawing skills.

Esquillo said he was eight years old when he first learned how to use a pencil, he recalled. The walls of his house and cabinet doors were his canvas, he added.

He developed a love for animation after he got hooked on Dragon Ball Z, a popular Japanese cartoon show aired on a local channel.

The eldest in a brood of four brothers, Esquillo completed a two-year course in computer technology through a scholarship in May last year.

After graduation, he tried to find work as a computer technician in some companies, but was always turned down. Then came the animation training which reunited him with his first love: Drawing.

"What is good about this profession is that it only recognizes talent. It doesn't care about looks, height, or your status in life," he said.

Alstaire Sarthou, Tog Peg's animation director, told the INQUIRER that Esquillo has a "big potential to be a good animator."

"He is among those who excel... his drawing skills are good," he said.

As for Esquillo, animation is no longer just a passion. It has also become a means of livelihood that could lead to a better life for him and his family.

"All I really want is to give my family a good life and send all my brothers to school," he said.

"I will really keep doing my best, no matter how hard it gets sometimes. I don't care if I have to draw from night until the wee hours of the morning," he added.

ESQUILLO wants to go international. RAFFY LERMA

SM mall ordered to close illegal wells

By Blanche Rivera, and Abigail Ho

THE NATIONAL WATER Resources Board (NWRB) said the other day it would file charges against SM Fairview if it refuses to stop operating its illegal deep wells in violation of the Water Code.

NWRB executive director Ramon Alikpala said the mall has been operating for years without being connected to any water concessionaire, sourcing its water supply from its illegal wells and putting huge pressure on Metro Manila's groundwater source.

"They (SM Fairview) have no connection at all, so that means the mall has been tapping into the groundwater source all this time, which is really shameless. They're not paying for their water," Alikpala told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

SM has asked for more time to review its documents before commenting on the matter. As of press time yesterday, however, it had yet to come out with an official statement.

But SM's corporate communication officer Millie Dizon has maintained that SM Fairview has not received any suspension or cease-and-desist orders from the NWRB regarding its deep wells.

The NWRB has also ordered the Greenhills Shopping Complex and the Meralco Complex, both in Ortigas, to shut down their illegal wells, which extract about 32,000 cubic meters of water a month, enough to supply 1,000 households.

Meralco, however, said it was forced to resort to using deep wells as service provider Manila Water Co. Inc. could not provide it with round-the-clock water supply.

In a telephone interview the other day, Meralco vice president for corporate communication Elpi Cuna Jr. said the distribution utility was getting only about 30 percent of its water requirements from the deep wells, enough to provide water to the Meralco compound at times when there was no supply coming from Manila Water.

"For a very long time, Manila Water has not been able to provide us with 24-hour water supply. Since we are a public utility, a lot of people visit us everyday. Of course, we have to have water," he explained.

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Occidental Mindoro
Municipality of Magsaysay
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN
Second Agrarian Reform
Communities Development Project (ARCDP II)

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)

January 22, 2006
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the ARCDPII and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the following contracts located at Barangay Nicolas, Municipality of Magsaysay, Province of Occidental Mindoro. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as define in the Guideline: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Magsaysay, Province of Occidental Mindoro and implementing partner of the DLR for ARCDPII invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Rehabilitation of 1.308 kms. Buenaventura Road Contract Number RIRR 05 159 02 PAP-OM

Project Duration	90 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents	PHP 5,000.00
Minimum Bid Security	PHP 60,000.00
Bid Closing Date	February 22, 2006 Time 2:00 PM

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Item No.	Scope of Works	Quantity	Unit
10	Clearing and Grubbing	7,848.00	sq.m.
13	Structure Excavation	163.77	cu.m.
14(2)	Embankment using Borrow Materials	5,744.30	cu.m.
20	Aggregate Sub-Base Course	780.00	cu.m.
21	Aggregate Base Course	780.00	cu.m.
43	Reinforcing Steel Bars	5,339.28	kgs.
44	Structural Concrete	112.84	cu.m.
50(3)	Underdrains (610 dia. RCP)	78.00	ln.m.
50(4)	Underdrains (910 dia. RCP)	12.00	ln.m.
51.2	Riprap & Grouted Riprap	148.00	cu.m.
52	Stone Masonry	63.65	cu.m.

Minimum Equipments Required

Bulldozer (1 unit)-owned/leased; Road Roller Vibratory Compactor (9 ton min. 1 unit)-owned; Road Grader (1 unit)-owned/leased; Loader (1 unit); Dump Truck (4 units)-owned/leased, Backhoe (1 unit)-owned or lease, Water Truck (1 unit)-owned; Bagger Mixer (1 unit)-owned, Concrete Vibrator (1 unit)-owned; Survey instruments-leased/owned.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Magsaysay, Province of Occidental Mindoro starting January 23, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 5,000.00 for each set. Pre-bid conference will be held in the same address on February 7, 2006 at 2:00 PM.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a Bid security of PhP 60,000.00 in form, **Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee**, on a free convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Magsaysay, Province of Occidental Mindoro, on or before the Bid closing date on February 22, 2006 at 2:00 PM, at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

The LGU-BAC ARCDPII of Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) JESUS JONJIE A. VENTURANZA
Chairman, LGU BAC-ARCDPII

(PDI – January 22, 2006)

Things You Need to Know About Bird Flu

The bird flu virus currently sweeping across Asia has already caused much scare in both poultry industry and the consuming public. The virus has swept through poultry populations in East and Southeast Asia. Tens of millions of chickens have either died or been slaughtered.

In Southeast Asia, only Philippines, Brunei and Singapore remain free from bird flu virus. A number of people have died in China, Thailand and Vietnam because of this virus. Even Indonesia, North Korea, Cambodia, Hong Kong and Laos are already affected. Japan, Malaysia and South Korea have been hit by the virus but were able to control the outbreak.

But how deadly is the bird flu virus and where did it come from? What should we do to avoid the spread of this disease?

Bird Flu or Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza is caused by Avian Influenza Type A virus and is widespread among wild birds particularly wild geese, ducks and swans. Migratory birds are a significant source of infection especially in countries under major flyways.

With the Philippines falling under the East Asian flyway, the threat of infection exists. Some of the places where migratory birds make a regular "stopover" include Manila Bay coastal areas, Olango Island in Cebu, Candaba Swamps in Pampanga, Batanes Island, Buguey Island in Cagayan Valley and the coastal wetlands in Mindanao.

Large amounts of the virus are excreted in bird droppings, nasal secretions and aerosol droplets. Influenza virus can be transmitted by direct contact between infected and susceptible birds or via indirect contact through contaminated clothing, footwear, feeders, farm equipments, etc.

Experts agree that the problem can be minimized if only strict biosecurity is implemented:

1. Keep stray animals, birds and other fowls out of poultry houses. For outdoor raised poultry, no domestic ducks and free-range poultry must have access to migratory birds areas, especially wetlands.
2. Control personnel movement within and around the farm. Limit visitors to farms particularly those who have come from AI-affected countries.
3. Disinfect materials, people and equipment entering the farm. Set up biosecurity control points in the farm: gates, shower rooms, footbaths, fumigation boxes.

When disinfecting, choose a disinfectant that has superior wetting and penetrating properties to allow better contact between the virus and disinfectant. *Microban* combines the power of four disinfectants: 2 aldehydes, quaternary ammonium compound and glyoxal to bring about thorough disinfection. Microban has been proven to be effective against avian influenza and other kinds of virus, bacteria and fungi. To achieve best results, there must be thorough cleaning of the poultry house prior to disinfection of Microban.

Aside from stringent biosecurity measures, boosting the bird's immune system with proper supplements like Vitamin A and B12 would also help in controlling the spread of the disease. Vetracin Premium's triple defense formula banks on the high doses of Vitamin A and B12 to strengthen the body's natural defense against infections, supported by a broad spectrum antibiotics-chlortetracycline. With its powerful formula, Vetracin Premium would help boost the birds' immune system and reduce their chances of having infections.

While the Philippines is so far free from Bird Flu, this is no time to be complacent. Supplement your chickens or gamefowls with high doses of Vitamin A and B12 and implement strict biosecurity measures. While we still have time, we should be prepared for the possible bird flu pandemic the World Health Organization is now warning us about.

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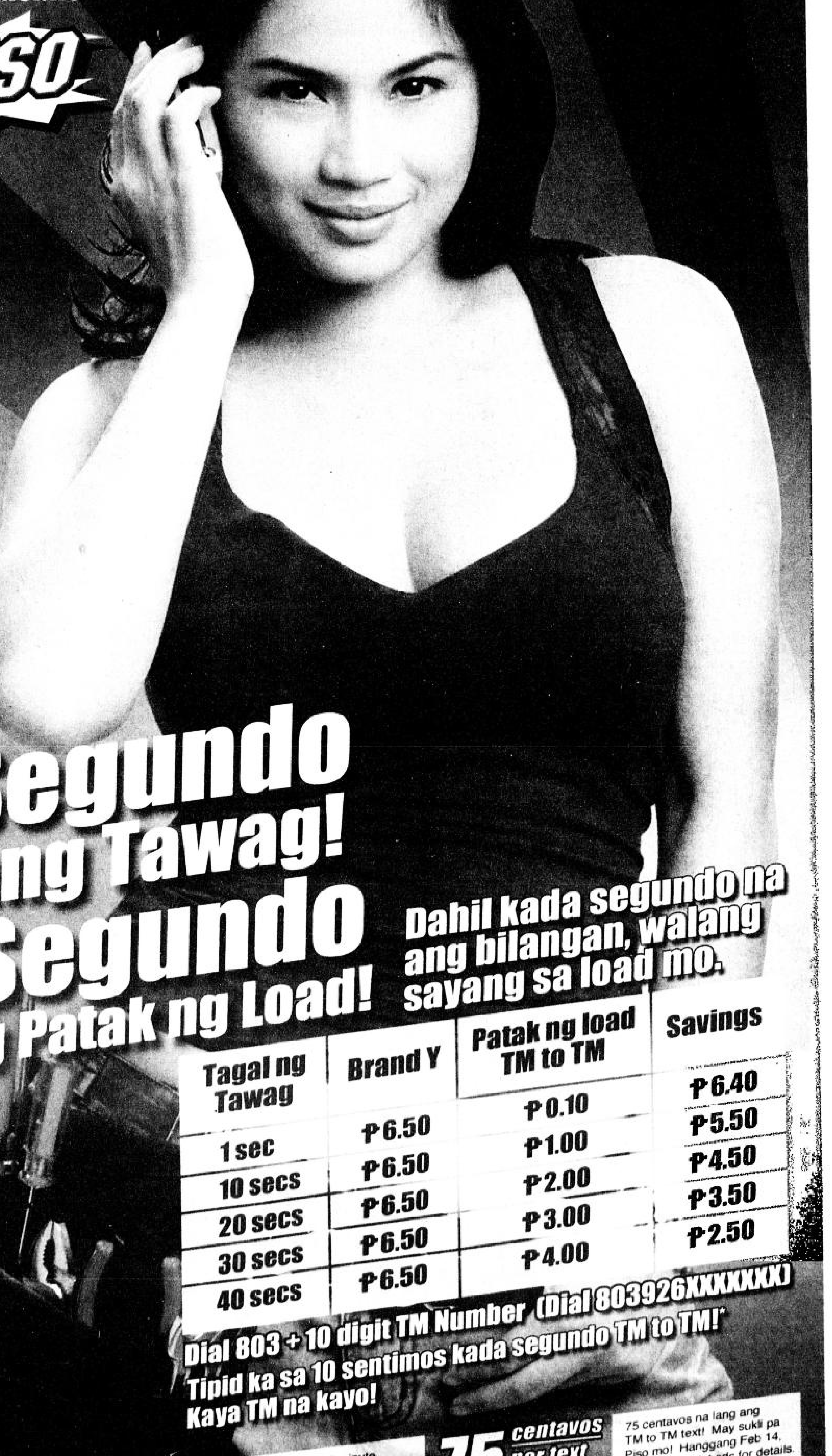

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*Promo extended until Feb. 14, 2006.

LAKAS NG GLOBE

Sunday SPORTS
E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

The Battle is on

Was Pacquiao really that light?

By Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—HOW COME MANNY Pacquiao checked in unusually light in yesterday's official weigh-in for his no-tomorrow clash with Erik Morales of Mexico?

Pinoy backers of the boxing star could not help but ask this question after Pacquiao checked in two and a half pounds under for yesterday's official weight test for The Battle.

It's like this: After eating a full meal Thursday night, Pacquiao slept well, then had a routine weight check yesterday morning prior to the official weigh-in.

He registered 130 pounds, perfect for the monumental super featherweight rematch with Morales today.

Repeat: he registered a perfect 130 lbs.

No worry, whatsoever?

Not really.

Several members of Team Pacquiao had sensed something fishy about the unusually low result of the official weigh-in after yesterday's official proceedings.

In the first place, why did Pacquiao register only 128.5 lbs. despite having had to eat a full meal on the eve of the official weigh-in yesterday.

He was already a breath short of 130 lbs. Thursday, but although he did have to work out a sweat the morning after, he still inexplicably lost weight based on the final check.

Pacquiao people had wondered out loud but could not find an honest answer.

Meanwhile, Eric Morales registered a perfect 130 lbs. in yersterday's official weigh-in in just one try. Last year, he had had to shed extra poundage after fouling out on his first try at the scales.

Here: Pacquiao was already a perfect 130 yesterday morning, how come he suddenly weighed a strange 128.5 lbs in the official weigh check, without having had to do anything significant.

Had Pacquiao been cheated again?

As one RP team member had suspeced, Morales might have had exceeded 130 lbs. but a strange undertaking could have saved the Mexican ring great from a hefty penalty for excess poundage.

There was this suspicion somebody, or a group of people, had tinkered with the scale in a successful bid to make Morales come in at a perfect 13.

This was not the first time this strange twist had happened in pro boxing circles.

TALE OF THE TAPE

Erik Morales		Manny Pacquiao
Sept, 6, 1976	**Date of Birth**	Dec. 17, 1978
5'8"	**Height**	5'6"
130 lbs	**Weight**	128 1/2 lbs
72"	**Reach**	67"
35"	**Chest Normal**	38"
37"	**Chest Expanded**	41"
12"	**Biceps**	13"
10"	**Forearms**	12"
29"	**Waist**	28"
19 1/2"	**Thigh**	20"
14"	**Calf**	15"
15"	**Neck**	16"
6 1/2"	**Wrist**	8"
10"	**Fist**	10"

Strengths:

MORALES (48 wins, 3 losses, 34 KO's): Possesses an excellent and hard left jab, and long, hard right cross. He has a set of tough whiskers, and may have the psychological edge.

Weaknesses

MORALES: An average defensive fighter, Morales doesn't move his head well and keeps his chin up and exposed. He doesn't fight well when backed up into the ropes and has had trouble in the past against fast fighters.

Strengths

PACQUIAO (40 wins, 3 losses, 2 draw, 32 KO's): He is fast, fast, fast. He moves in behind a sharp right jab from his southpaw stance, and follows it up with a powerful left. He is well-conditioned, and will be wearing the gloves he loves to bring into the fight.

Weaknesses

PACQUIAO: He is a one-and-a-two fighter who comes in behind a right jab and a straight left. He comes after his opponent with hands held too low making him vulnerable to counters, which is a Morales specialty. His all-out style is built for offense, not defense, and sometimes has troubles when his opponent moves out of range and opts not to stand in front of him. An idol of close to 90 million Filipinos, he also admits to feeling the pressure to win this bout.

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Express slip past Phone Pals in OT /A20

Hingis fairytale yarn continues spinning /A22

Jaca aims to shine bright in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—JIMREX JACA GOES UP against Mexican Geronimo Hernandez in the undercard of the Manny Pacquiao-Erik Morales rematch today at the Thomas and Mack Center located inside the University of Nevada in Las Vegas.

Jaca, the reigning Philippine super featherweight champion from Sibulan, Negros Oriental, will clash with Hernandez in the second fight of the 8-bout card dubbed "The Battle."

Known as "Executioner" back home, Jaca came in at 129 lbs while Hernandez tipped the scales at 131 during their official weigh-in yesterday at the Margaux Ballroom of the world-famous Wynn Hotel, the biggest facility in the Strip.

"I am ready to go. I will give it my best and hope that my countrymen will also include me in their prayers," Jaca told this writer before the weigh-in supervised by NSAC's Marc Ratner and hosted by WBC heavyweight champ Hasim Rahman.

Rex "Wakee" Salud, who watched the weigh-in with his politician friends at the gallery, said that should Jaca win impressively, he would immediately work on another fight for his ward in the United States.

Experts pick Jaca (24-1-1 with 11 KOs) as favorite due to his height edge over Hernandez.

"*Mabugbog kay Jimrex yang si Hernandez. Mas matangkad at mas magaling siya* (Jimrex will clobber Hernandez because he's tall and the better fighter)," said ex-pro Gerry Balagbagan, who will work Jimrex's corner with Eric Brown, a trainer at the Wild Card Gym. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

Lina may head new cage body Fiba wants

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LINA

JOEY LINA, THE PRESIDENT OF the expelled Basketball Association of the Philippines, just might become the leader of the new basketball body set to be created by the Philippine Olympic Committee and the sport's stakeholders.

This possibility took shape after POC officials met with Lina and the heads of the PBA, PBL, UAAP and NCAA last week in line with the memorandum of agreement forged by the Olympic body with the international basketball federation or Fiba last year.

The former senator is reportedly enjoying the support of the four commercial and collegiate leagues, especially the PBA, where one of its teams, Air21, is owned by Lina's brother Bert Lina.

Sources said the pro league also wants to settle the issue as soon as possible to better prepare the national team that will represent the country in the Doha Asian Games late this year.

The MOA calls for the creation of a new basketball body through the auspices of the POC and the stakeholders.

The POC had earlier expelled the BAP from its roster and installed the Philippine Basketball Federation Inc., headed by president Moying Martelino as the new governing body for the sport. But the PBFI wasn't included in last week's summit.

POC spokesperson Joey Romasanta refused to make comments but said POC president Peping Cojuangco will call on the PBFI officials to a meeting tomorrow afternoon to "clarify" things.

P25M Worth of Enervon Multivitamins Donated To Help Nation Prepare Against Bird Flu

Unilab President & CEO Carlos C. Ejercito (2nd from right) turns over the Enervon donation to Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban (3rd from left) after the MOA signing. Flanking Sec. Panganiban and Mr. Ejercito are (from left) Bureau of Animal Industry Director Dr. Davinio Catbagan, DA Undersecretary Salvador Salacup and Conrado Baylon, Univet executive.

United Laboratories, Inc. (Unilab), the country's largest and leading pharmaceutical company, signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) on January11, 2006 with the Department of Agriculture (DA) for the donation of Php25 million worth of Enervon multivitamins to help strengthen body resistance of poultry and government frontline workers in the 21 identified "hot spots" in the country.

The Enervon multivitamins donation is another boost to the government's campaign against the dreaded bird flu disease. Last December 1, 2005,Unilab has separately donated Php66 million worth of oseltamivir medicines through a MOA with DOH in Malacanang Palace in the presence of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The first batch of oseltamivir medicines is expected to be delivered to DOH by end of February. The Enervon donation brings the total Unilab assistance to Php91 million.

According to Unilab Division Vice President for Medical Affairs Dr. Alex Tuazon, Enervon multivitamins is a supplement to proper nutrition. "Various researches have shown that the vitamins in Enervon help release energy from food. It also helps to strengthen the immune system and thus improve body resistance against illness," he said. "Boosting the immune system, taking proper nutrition and maintaining proper body hygiene are important preventive measures people can take against diseases and infections."

Unilab strongly supports the national effort to adopt all possible preventive measures because of the extremely limited global supply of anti-bird flu medicines relative to anticipated needs if and when bird flu hits the country. Unilab's support to national preparations against the potential pandemic is consistent with its corporate philosophy of "Bayanihan".

Advertorial

Iligan vows to do better

THE ILIGAN CRUSADERS OF MAYOR Lawrence Cruz have promised to do better in the National Basketball Conference (NBC) this year after confirming their return to the country's leading regional tournament.

"We'd be one of the teams to watch this year," promised Mayor Cruz after a meeting with NBC secretary general Tito Palma.

Two other Crusader officials, Councilor Varf Belmonte and team manager Freddie Siao, joined Mayor Cruz in the meeting.

The Crusaders reached the semifinals of the Southern Conference in their debut last year. "We believe we can improve on our showing," Mayor Cruz said.

Iligan has tapped June Longalong to coach the team. He replaced Billy Reyes, younger brother of national coach Chot Reyes who decided to stay in Manila to attend to other commitments.

Longalong will conduct tryouts at the CCP (Central Colleges of the Philippines) gym in Sta. Mesa from 5 to 7 p.m. today until Tuesday.

Former Spring Cooking Oil playmaker Marlon Kalaw has already signed up with Iligan, together with Dondon Mendoza, Glen Umipig and Ferdie Go.

DANIELS
5
R. DE OCAMP

AIR21'S Shawn Daniels tries to get off a shot against Talk 'N Text's Mark Telan in Game 1. RYAN LIM

Express slip past Phone Pals in OT

By June Navarro

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:10 p.m.—Air21/Talk N Text vs Purefoods
6:35 p.m.—Red Bull vs Barangay Ginebra

ANTIPOLO CITY—ASI TAULAVA PREDICTED nothing less than a victory for Talk 'N Text.

Gary David and Ronald Tubid dismissed that bold forecast by propelling Air21 to its first-ever semifinal appearance with a 117-110 overtime win last night in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Ynares Center.

Tubid tallied all his 19 points in the second half while the never-say-die David pumped in 13 of his 19 in the same stretch as the Express finally clinched the best-of-five quarterfinal series against the high-profile, richly funded TNT squad.

"Asi said on television that they are the better team," said Air21 coach Bo Perasol, who wrote Taulava's prediction on the white board and reminded his boys about it during the team's pre-game huddle.

In their first semifinal stint since joining the league in 2002, the Express will clash with the Purefoods Chunkee Giants in a best-of-seven series starting today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Red Bull Barako and Barangay Ginebra will clash in the other semifinal duel.

"We're the best conditioned team. If they are thinking that we are already exhausted, they are wrong," said Perasol, who will steer the Express to a third straight game in three days.

The scores:

AIR 21 117—Daniels 25, Ritualo 23, David 19, Tubid 19, De Ocampo R 7, Arboleda 7, Canaleta 5, Se 4, Gonzales 3, De Ocampo Y 3, Fran 2, Ferriols 0.

TALK N TEXT 110—Ham 20, Miller 19, Alapag 17, Pablo 16, Taulava 15, Telan 11, Belano 8, Gelig 2, Carey 2, Salangsang 0.

Quarters: 26-27, 47-49, 72-77, 106-106, 117-110.

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Pacquiao in 6 or less

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IT'S TIME ONCE AGAIN TO MAKE A PREDICTION.

No, it's not the weather I am going to predict.

As if you don't know.

It's about the Manny Pacquiao fight today in Las Vegas, Nevada, where Pacquiao will battle Erik Morales anew in a bout scheduled for 12 rounds.

Will Pacquiao win and get his revenge?

If so, how can he win?

He can win if he connects early in the fight, a fact he miserably failed to accomplish in their first fight.

In that first fight held March 19 last year, also in America, Pacquiao had been too tentative and thrown punches just occasionally in the early going. When he started to launch his attack starting in the fifth, he got head-butted unfortunately in the right eyebrow. Blood oozed profusely from the gaping wound—a wound that would soon not only impair his vision as blood incessantly creamed his eye but also would effectively deflect his vaunted punching power; loss of blood made him weak in the knee as the fight progressed.

You fight with one bad eye against one of the world's best fighters like Morales and that's a handicap too huge to overcome.

You fight with your own blood streaming down your face and that's worse than donating pints of blood to the Red Cross.

You fight wounded for seven grueling rounds from the fifth against an unscathed boxer so classy and experienced as Morales and it's like you reprised Jesus Christ on the Calvary—bulldozer-heavy Cross slung on your shoulder.

Boxing is an art, yes, and you have to know the difference between form and content in order to paint a portrait of victory flawlessly.

Form and content—they must go hand in hand.

Form and content—they complement each other.

Boxing is sweet science because it is an art: It is exact.

In boxing, form is how you unleash a punch, content is the impact of that punch.

Because boxing is science and an art at the same time, it is imperative that defense in this game is co-equal with offense.

You can't be head-butted by even the dirtiest fighter if you put art over heart in boxing. Muhammad Ali was the best practitioner of that. In all of his fights, never was Ali wounded by a head butt. That's why he was, still is, the greatest of them all. He had the heart of a champion, but he always put heart second only to his art.

Manny Pacquiao throws one of the biggest punches in the business today. In fact, everything that he throws is a bomb.

But always, the question is, can he land his killer punch, or killer punches, finally against Morales?

Ali didn't have the hardest punch unlike Mike Tyson or George Foreman. But he knew how to land a punch strong enough to cut down giants like Foreman himself. That happened in the 1974 fight in Zaire where Ali knocked out the previously unbeaten Foreman in the eighth.

Pacquiao can make Morales his 33rd knockout victim if he only knows how to deliver the knockout punch.

He miserably failed to do that in their first fight simply because from the very start, he fought the fight that Morales wanted him to fight. Pacquiao had practically allowed himself to be toyed with by Morales through the Mexican's hit-and-run strategy.

While it is absolutely true that Morales is tough as nails, I will still predict a knockout win for Pacquiao within six rounds. I'm sure Pacquiao has learned his lessons well from the first fight, chief among them the tactic to immediately launch an aggressive assault in order to instantly defuse whatever psy-war ploy Morales has in mind—whether new or not.

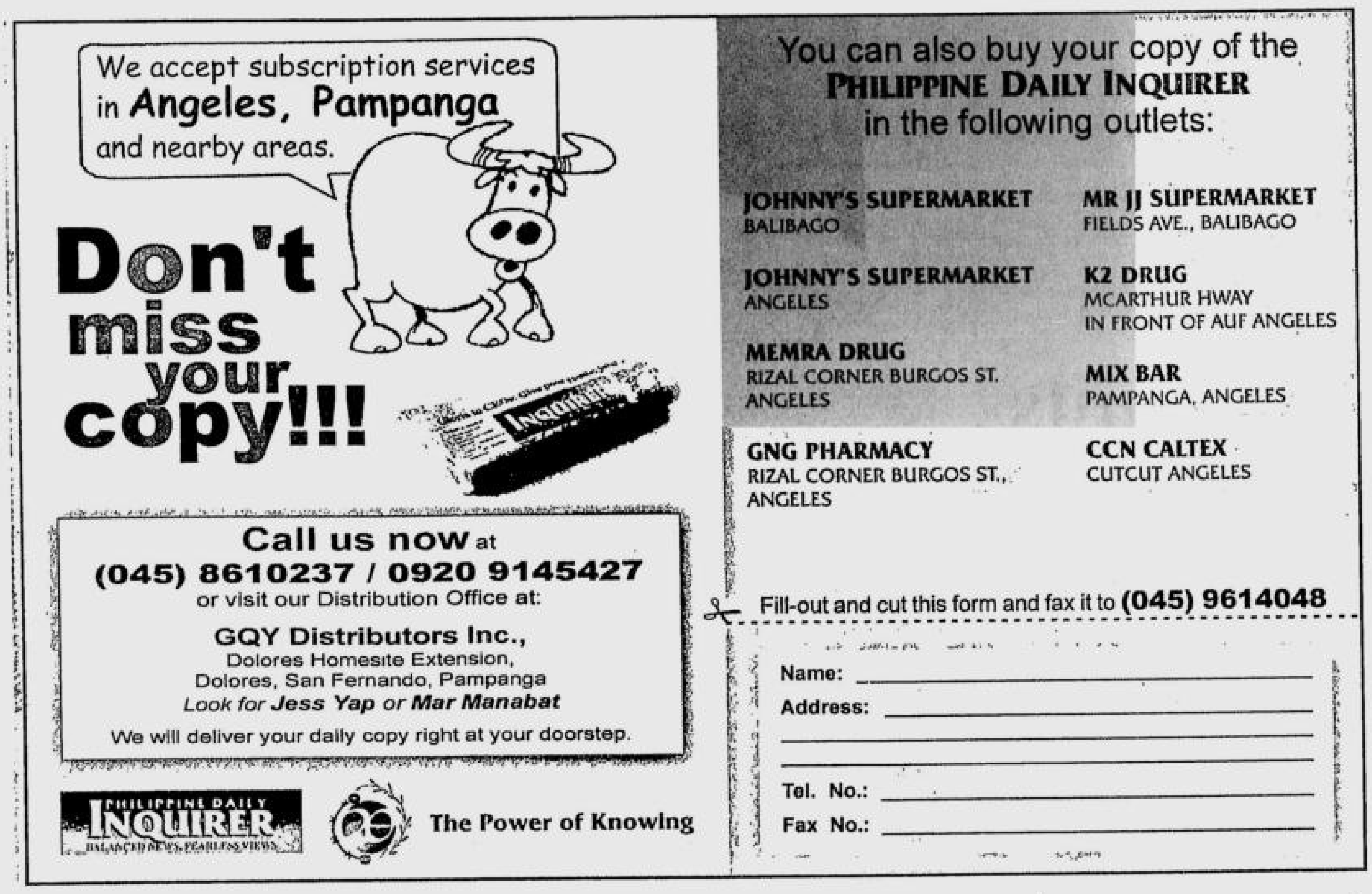
It is probably safe to say that Morales, 48-3, with 34 knockouts, will abandon his hit-and-run strategy as I'm sure he knows that Pacquiao, 40-3-2 with 32 KOs, has already found an antidote to it.

But whatever it is that Morales has concocted in this return bout, I am almost absolutely sure that, barring any accident such as that bizarre head butt in their first fight, Pacquiao will be up to the task. Just one Pacquiao punch and it could be over.

Mark my word.

***

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net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St. Francis seeks 6th straight title

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI COLLEGE SYSTEMS-Bacoor gained a crack at an unprecedented sixth straight title when it barged into the finals of the 6th Southern Luzon Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SLCUAA) high school basketball competitions at the Brent International School gym recently.

The Dovelets pulled off a 66-58 victory over Perpetual Help-Molino to reach the finals of the 11-member league.

In the other semis game, De La Salle-Health and Science Campus bested Perpetual Help-Calamba, 54-47, to barge into the women's championship round opposite waiting finalist Brent International School.

Heritage Cup set at Araneta

EIGHT MAJOR COCKERS GROUPS, ALL based in Luzon, have banded together in search of the ultimate cockfighting champion who will receive the Heritage Cup 2006.

The group, known as Luzon-Based Gamecock Breeders Association (LBGBA) is composed of LGBA, CVGBA, GBAT, KGBA, BBC, Bigba, Unigba and Tagba. The LBGBA also received the green light from cockfighting patron Jorge "Nene" L. Araneta to hold a big-time circuit derby at the Araneta Coliseum.

For inquiries, contact 926-7808 and 924-5072 (look for Taz Lunasco).

Samsung Interscholastics golf under way at Tagaytay

TWENTY-NINE TEAMS LED BY defending champion La Salle launch their bids for the five division titles up for grabs in the sixth Samsung Interscholastic golf championship starting today at the Tagaytay Highlands Golf and Country Club course.

La Salle will once again bid for a sweep of the four divisions where it is entered, the same way it did in the fifth edition of the meet held last October at the Valley executive course.

Tee off starts at 7:45 a.m. for the 154 junior golfers representing their respective schools in the 54-hole championship featuring team and individual competitions in the college, high school and elementary levels.

The tourney is backed by Samsung Electronics Philippines, Inc. and cosponsored by Tokyo Tokyo, KZG, Microtel, Srixon, Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, Sunbolt, Rudy Project, C-Lium Fiber and Sports Plus. Media partners are Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3 , 89.9, 99.5 RT, 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee.

The competing teams include Ateneo, Academy of St. John, Angelicum, and Brent International School.

SPORTSWATCH

Fistorama in Cagayan De Oro

FISTORAMA features at 4 p.m. today an eight-round bout between bantamweights Reggie Binueza and Phil Angcamor. This bout was part of Edgardo "Boy" Cantada's fight card held at the provincial capitol of Misamis Oriental in Cagayan de Oro City. Fistorama is shown Sundays, on RPN 9. "Golf Power Plus" airs at 3 p.m. featuring Adamson University Team III against St. Francis de Assisi in the 1st Samsung Inter-Collegiate Women's Beach Volleyball Challenge.

DAR Secretary chess challenge

THE DEPARTMENT of Agrarian Reform Chess Club (DARCC), in cooperation with the DAR Employees Association, will be hosting the DAR Secretary Chess Challenge. Open to all players with NCFP rating of 2050 and below, the tournament will be held every Sunday of the month starting Feb. 5 at the DAR HRD Center, DAR Central Office, Elliptical Road, Quezon City. Named in honor of DAR Secretary Nasser C. Pangandanan, the tournament will be held through the office of Undersecretary Jeffrey M. Galan of FMAO. For inquiries, call DARC president Angela at 0918-5185152 or Willie Abalos at 0921-6219898.

Wolcott entry tops NCA meet

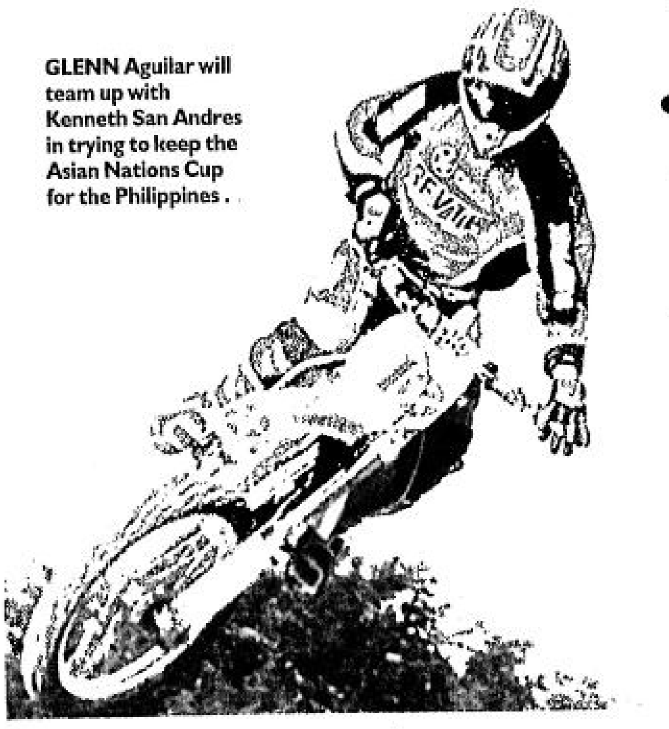
THE NATIONAL Cockers Association World Championship ended Saturday morning with its participants concluding that the 8-cock derby lived up to its billing as the "real world championship." "Indeed, the NCA Championship featured the toughest fights we have ever witnessed anywhere in the world of cockfighting. Without any doubt, only the crème of the crop were fielded by both local and foreign participants," said Joe Wolcott who, with Larry Whitehead and the Firefly Group, ruled the event. The Wolcott-Whitehead-Firefly trio scored seven wins against one loss.

Las Piñas cockfest Jan. 26

NO LESS than 50 entries are assured in the special 3-cock derby on Jan. 26 at the Las Piñas Coliseum. Coliseum manager Alex Tobias, derby host, said cockers from Batangas, Rizal, Laguna, Bulacan, Cavite and Metro Manila are set to unleash their derby aces. Aside from the cash prize of P300,000, an additional bonus of P1,000 per win will be given away. Entry fee is P5,500. Call 873-1040 and 874-3910.

PCAP group gets backer

THE PINOY Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP), based at Makati Coliseum, gets a major backer yesterday after sealing an agreement with San Miguel Corp., makers of gamecock feeds B-Meg Derby Ace Premium Formula. The PCAP will hold its second 5-cock derby on Monday with 65 fights. Participants are reminded to submit entries today, from 2-9 p.m. Contact 896-3545 and 895-6475.



GLENN Aguilar will team up with Kenneth San Andres in trying to keep the Asian Nations Cup for the Philippines .

Revtex ace riders join Guam FIM Supercross

REVTEX ROCKET GLENN AGUILAR and Kenneth San Andres plunge into action in the first leg of the 2006 FIM Asia Pacific Supercross Championships at the Calvo Memorial Raceway Park in Jigo, Guam, today.

The Revtex standouts are coming off another smashing year in the local and international circuit, cementing their team's status as the best motocross team in the country today.

"I won a ninth straight Rider of the Year title while Kenneth won his ninth national crown, this time in the Expert Open" said Aguilar, the FIM Asia-Pacific champion in 2003. "The challenges are huge, but we're up to the task because we have Revtex oil on our side."

The Revtex Rocket, in partnership with Revtex Rider San Andres, clinched for the Philippines the Asian Nations Cup, which is awarded to the best motocross-playing country in the Asian region.

Juvic stays in hunt for top 10 finish

PAGUNSAN: In the hunt.

JUVIC PAGUNSAN OF THE Philippines shot a one-under-par 71 yesterday and stayed within striking distance of a top 10 finish in his first tournament as a pro in the Pakistan Open.

The 27-year-old former amateur ace missed posting a low number after a string of three straight bogeys from the fifth and another bogey on No. 18 to total 212 after 54 holes and tie for 15th spot along with four others.

Pagunsan remained the best-placed Filipino in the $200,000 Asian Tour event with Angelo Que and Frankie Miñoza in joint 26th with 214 aggregates.

After opening up with a 77 on Thursday, Que, winner of the first Carlsberg Masters Vietnam in 2004, shot a 32 in the back nine for a 67, while Miñoza had six birdies against three bogeys in his 69.

Cassius Casas was at one-under 215 after a third-round 71 for a share of 33rd place with Antonio Lascuña shooting a 75 for 220 and joint 54th. Former RP Open winner Gerald Rosales assembled a 74 for 221 and 57th place.

Artemio Murakami, the last of seven Filipinos to make the weekend play here, posted a 79 and dropped to a share of 69th place from 57th after the second round at 225, nine-over.

Briton Chris Rodgers finished with a flurry and took his pacesetting total to 15-under 201 after shooting a 68.

Hometown bet Mohamed Munir grabbed a piece of second place at 12-under 204 after signing for a 66. He was tied with Mark Mouland, Rodgers' countryman and co-leader after two rounds who shot a 71.

India's Jeev Milkha Singh and Amandeep Johl shot contrasting rounds and found themselves tied for fourth along with Iain Steel and Barry Hume with 208 aggregates.

Singh failed to break 70 for the first time in three days with a 71.

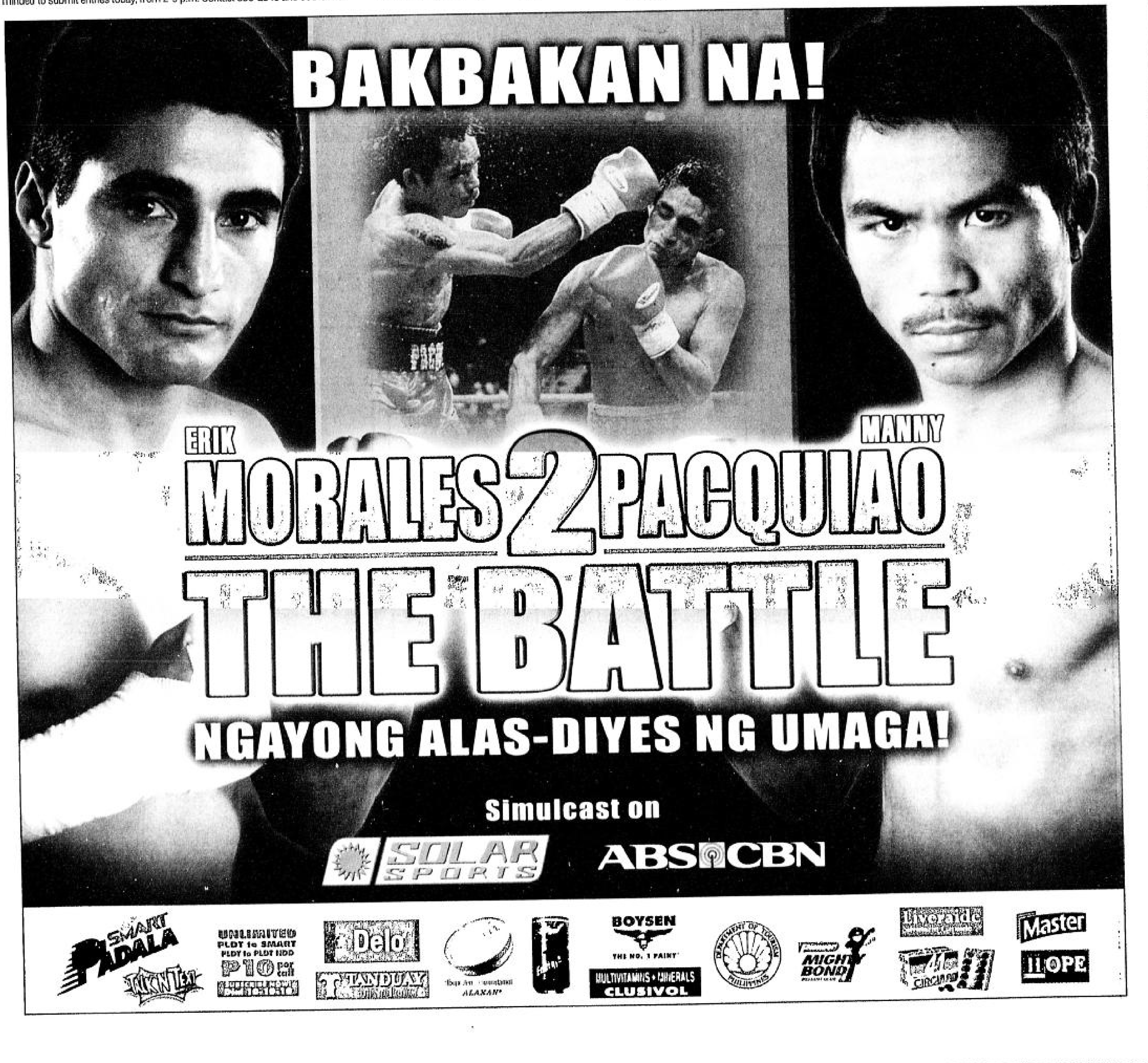
RACING

At SANTA ANA

Race 1—(Ori/Tri)—Maximum Exposure (2), Eren's Talent (3), C Toret (6), Distinctive Dancer (5)
Race 2—(Ori/Tri)—Wellers Fury (2), Soul Est Grace (4), Distinct Three (6), Moveheed/Arctic Desert (1)
Race 3—(Ori/Tri)—Sovereign Dancer (6), Money Maker (5), Distilled Lady (1), Cash Mc Call (3)
Race 4—(Ori/Tri)—Master King (4), Cool Runnings (7), Dansouso/Colombia Breeze (2), Batang Malolos (5)
Race 5—(Ori/Tri)—Field Star (5), Better Strike (3), Reporter (6), Speed Admiral (1)
Race 6—(Ori/Tri)—Puppy Dog Tail (5), MAdam Cognac (6), Rhyme And A Prayer/Alab Sunrise (1), Rush (3)
Race 7—Mr. Lucas (3), Valid Harm (5), Torvalac (4)
Race 8—(Ori/Tri)—Valiant Queen (4), Special Lady/La Española (7), Habagat (5), Heart Of The Wind (1)
Race 9—(Tri)—La Bella Rossa (4), Last Step (1), Floral Arch (3)
Race 10—(Penta/Tri)—Screaming Eagle (5), Lakambini (9), Red Phoenix (3) Eden's Quest (3), Sound Of The Wind (6)
Race 11—(Ori/Tri)—Perfect Harry (1), Gun Powder (4), Sweet Peanut (5), Uncle Buck (8)
Race 12—(Ori/Tri)—Starsky and Hutch (3), Real Black (5), Key Element (6), Man Power (4)
Race 13—(Super 6/Ori/Tri)—Amazing Frenzel/Gonlalon Story (6), Gorgeous Sand (10) Dred Dash (3), Golden Harry (8), Refreshing (1), Besame Mucho (9)

Bill Shaw draws record field

MORE THAN 200 TEAMS ARE EXPECTED TO participate in the 17th edition of the Bill Shaw Memorial Golf Classic on Jan. 27 and 28 at the East and West courses of the Wack Wack Golf & Country Club. The event is the annual member-guest invitational tournament in honor of its founder William "Bill Shaw." This year's classic tournament will be presented by the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT). Hole-in-One prizes are an Audi A4 from PGS Cars, Mercedes Benz B Series 170 from CATS Motors, Inc., Camry from Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation, Fortuner from Toyota Balintawak, Inc., a Mitsubishi Lancer GLX from Union Motors Corp. & Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp., a Yamaha Golf Cart from Kart Plaza and a Club Car from Turf Co., and two World Business Class tickets to the East Coast from Northwest Airlines. The Northwest Airline tickets will be raffled during the awards night if not won as a Hole-in-One prize.



Hingis marches on; Federer slays 'beast'

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA—MARTINA HINGIS continued her Grand Slam comeback with a 6-4, 6-1 win over Iveta Benesova before stifling heat forced play indoors Saturday at the Australian Open.

Former No. 1-ranked Hingis advanced to the fourth round with the form that carried her to six consecutive finals at the Australian Open.

As good as Hingis was, fellow Swiss Roger Federer was virtually untouchable in beating 30th-seeded Max Mirnyi, who played well enough to beat most players but still was blitzed, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

Top-ranked Federer had 48 winners, committed only 10 unforced errors—just one in the second set—and dropped only 13 points in 14 service games on the way to beating the "Beast of Belasrus."

Seeking his seventh Grand Slam title and second here, he withstood Mirnyi's blistering first serves, which reached 220 kmph (137 mph), breaking him four times. With Mirnyi serving at 3-5 in the third set, Federer finished it off on his third match point with a forehand service return winner.

"I'm happy. I haven't lost a set, I'm through to the fourth round once again," said Federer. "Everything is feeling good. I have no injuries. I'm a happy person—it's all good."

Third-seeded Amelie Mauresmo was leading Michaella Krajicek, 6-2, in the following match when the 17-year-old Dutch player withdrew because of heat stress.

Krajicek, with icebags around her neck, had her temperature and pulse taken by trainers before telling the umpire: "I can't play."

"I felt like I was going to throw up. I couldn't even see the ball because my eyes were burning," Krajicek later explained.

Mauresmo said although the heat policy was enacted during their match, suspending play on outside courts, she had not noticed Krajicek struggling until the end.

"She seemed to have trouble with the heat, which I can understand," said Mauresmo.

The roof over Rod Laver Arena was closed before the later men's match between Tommy Haas and Australia's Peter Luczak.

Matches on outside courts were suspended when the temperature hit 35 C (95 F).

That was too late for the third-round matches already underway, which had to continue.

Two Frenchmen advanced from those: No. 25 Sebastien Grosjean took almost three hours to upset No. 6 Guillermo Coria, 6-2, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4, and Paul-Henri Mathieu beat Peru's Luis Horna, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (7), 6-1.

No. 12 Dominik Hrbaty beat Igor Andreev, 1-6, 6-4, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4, in 3 hours, 31 minutes.

Argentina's Juan Ignacio Chela, who ousted No. 3 Lleyton Hewitt in the second round, defeated Kristof Vliegen, 6-1, 6-4, 6-4.

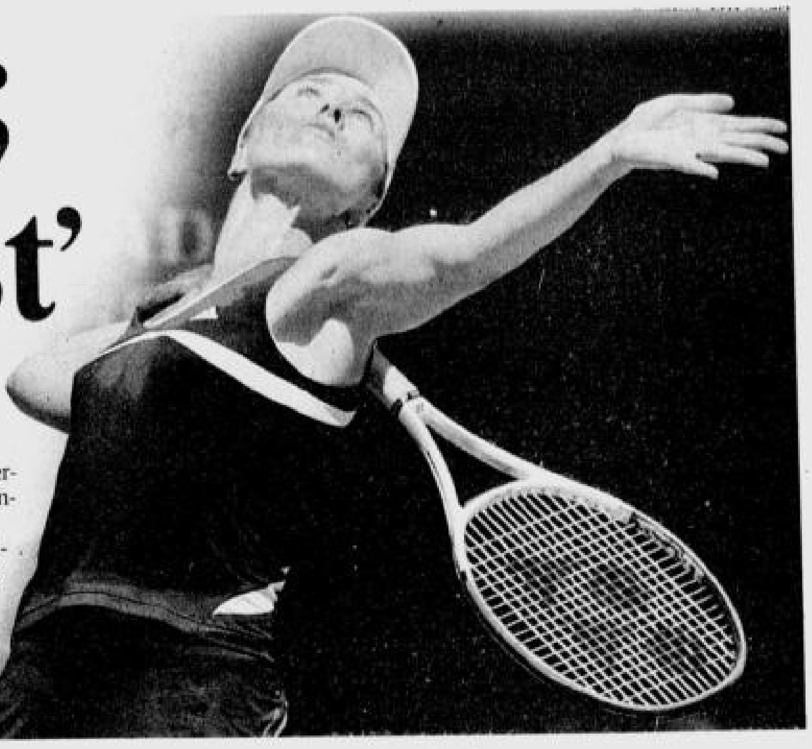
Only a handful of matches continued at two indoor arenas as the temperature exceeded 40 C (104) at 3 p.m., with on-court heat estimated at 10 degrees hotter.

In one of those, women's No. 7 Patty Schnyder beat Japan's Aiko Nakamura, 6-2, 6-3.

The weather had been hot enough Friday afternoon for organizers to enforce the extreme heat policy and wet enough in the evening to postpone five matches.

Organizers will be struggling to quickly make up time, with temperatures tipped to exceed 41 C (106 F) on Sunday.

In earlier matches, 2004 French Open winner Anastasia Myskina beat Sweden's Sofia Arvidsson, 6-3, 6-1. *AP*



HINGIS: Every match is a coming home. AP

Atienza wins Poker King final leg

BOBBY Atienza, a business consultant and part-time college instructor, outlasted 92 participants in the 6th and final leg of the Poker King Challenge recently held at Casino Filipino Silahis. Apart from the Grand Finals of the Poker King Challenge and also received a guaranteed seat certificate for the Million-Peso Hold 'Em Philippine Championship scheduled on April 8-9, 2006. Dino Antonio, a neophyte having learned the game a year ago, and Simon Crisostomo, an engineer and veteran poker player of 30 years, settled for 1st and 2nd runner-up respectively.

PROUD CHAMP: Chairman's Cup champion Baguio City Rep. Mauricio Domogan gets his trophy from Camp John Hay Development Company chair Bob Sobrepena (left) and Baguio City Development Authority chair Jun Rojas.

TOTAL ORAL CARE SOLUTIONS, INC.
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52 San Rafael Street
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Email:totaloral@gmail.com

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5275

PNOC

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND REBID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

18" & 24" CS Pipes under FGJ 50923
Approved Budget – PHP 6,110,000.00

Eligbility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o Harold T. Fontillas starting January 15, 2006, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **January 26, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to and registered with the PNOC-EDC Purchasing and Traffic Division at the above address, and thereafter, dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Procurement Department office Wall Clock Time) of February 9, 2006.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI–Jan. 15 & 22, 2006)

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

INVITATION TO BID

Being offered through public bidding, as one whole lot and on an "as-is, "where-is" basis, are the buildings, machinery and equipment formerly belonging to Unisol Industries and Manufacturing Corporation (UNISOL), located at Barrio Makiling, Calamba, Laguna, for a total Floor Price of P10,431,670.00.

Interested parties may request for the duly authenticated copies of the bidding documents for a nominal fee of PhP500.00 from the Marketing Department, 5th Floor, PMO Building, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. The deadline for interested parties to avail of the bid documents shall be on 31 January 2006, 5:00 p.m.

All offers shall be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of other bidders on 7 February 2006, at 3:00 p.m. at the PMO Conference Room, 6th Floor, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

For more information, please call Mr. John DF. Baldemor of the PMO Marketing Department at 817-6331 / 817-8762.

(PDI–January 20, 21 & 22, 2006)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka
PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN NG
PAGSASAKA AT PANGINGISDA
(National Agricultural and Fishery Council)
Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon
Tel. No. 928-87-41 to 65 local 510

Tender No.: FY 2005 US FOOD FOR PROGRESS PROGRAM-06/01

January 19, 2006

INVITATION TO BID

The National Agricultural and Fishery Council (NAFC) hereby invites sealed bids for the sale of 9,300 metric tons (+/- 1%) at Seller's option of food wheat with estimated time of arrival at the Philippine port approximately March 10-20, 2006 under the US Food for Progress Program.

Bid documents shall be available for issuance starting January 23, 2006 from NAFC BAC Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable fee amounting to One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

For purposes of clarification, a pre-bid conference will be held on January 27, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the Apacible Conference Room, Apacible Hall, DA Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Fully completed sealed bids should be submitted not later than 2:00 p.m. on January 31, 2006. Bids received after the scheduled time will not be accepted/entertained and will be returned unopened.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Peachy Agustin at Tel. Nos. 929-82-34 and 920-39-92.

(Sgd.) CARLITO P. FERNANDEZ
Deputy Executive Director

(PDI – January 21 & 22, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Bldg #6, San Lazaro Compound
Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz
Manila, Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 743-63-01 Loc 1625/1627

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines
Health Sector Development Project
Procurement of Information Technology
Equipment & Peripherals, Office Equipment and Furniture & Fixtures
IFB NO. 2006-2-14 (2)

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a Loan from the Asian Development Bank toward the cost of Health Sector Development Project (HSDP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the Procurement of Information Technology Equipment & Peripherals, Office Equipment and Furniture & Fixtures under Loan Agreement No. 2137.
2. The DOH now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Information Technology Equipment and Peripherals. Delivery of the GOODS is required by thirty (30) calendar days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with relevant procedures for open competitive bidding as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," to the extent consistent with Asian Development Bank's procurement procedures as defined in "Guidelines for Procurement Under Asian Development Bank Loans", and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Division (PD) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Philippine Pesos (PhP1,000.00). The method of payment will be on a cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The DOH will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on January 31, 2006 at 10:00 a.m., at the address given below.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 a.m., February 14, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the following form and amount in Philippine Pesos. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Bid Security	Minimum Amount in % of the Approved Budget for the Contract for the *Lot/ Package* for which Bids submitted
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft, irrevocable letter of credit or Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)

8. Bid opening shall be on February 14, 2006, 10:00 a.m., at the address given below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Central Office Bids and Awards Committee
Ground Floor, Building 6
Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz Manila
Trunkline Number: 7438301 loc. 1625 & 1626 Telefax No.: 7419775

(Sgd.) ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary of Health and COBAC Chairperson

(PDI-January 15 & 22, 2006)

PAGCOR

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB No.: 01-13-2006 ACF

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Name of Project	:	One (1) lot Janitorial Service - Airport Casino Filipino Required Personnel: 107 Janitors
Approved Budget	:	Thirty Seven Million Four Hundred Fifty Six Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Five Pesos & 76/100 (P 37,456,385.76)
Contract Duration	:	Two (2) years Contract
Source of Fund	:	Internally Funded

Only contractors duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered contractors must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Mla., Tel. No. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance from **January 18, 2006 to February 10, 2006** at the Branch Procurement and Property Office, Airport Casino Filipino-Parañaque City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Eighteen Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Eight Pesos & 19/100 (Php 18,728.19)***. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the Senior Branch Procurement and Property Officer.

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
Pre-Bid Conference	January 31, 2006 (2pm)
Submission of Bids	February 13, 2006 (2pm)
Opening of Bids	February 13, 2006 (2pm onwards)

VENUE: Airport Casino Filipino, Parañaque City

PAGCOR reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BBAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the BBAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government (R.A. 9184, Sec. 41).

Please address all communications to the Branch Bids and Awards Committee, Airport Casino Filipino, Parañaque City.

(Sgd) VALERIO SANTOS
BBAC Chairperson Airport Casino Filipino

(PDI – January 22 & 29, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Occidental Mindoro
Municipality of Magsaysay
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN
Second Agrarian Reform
Communities Development Project (ARCDP II)

INVITATION TO BID

January 22, 2006
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the ARCDPII and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the following contract located at Barangay Gapasan, Municipality of Magsaysay, Province of Occidental Mindoro. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guideline. Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Magsaysay, Province of Occidental Mindoro and implementing partner of DAR for ARCDPII invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Rehabilitation of 1.28 kms. Gamol-Burraoan FMR under Contract No. RIRR 05 175 03 PAP-OM.

Project Duration	120 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents	PHP 5,000.00
Minimum Bid Security	PHP 40,000.00
Bid Closing Date	February 22, 2006 Time 2:00 PM

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Item No.	Scope of Works	Quantity	Unit
13	Structure Excavation	139.57	cu.m.
14(2)	Embankment Using Borrow Materials	2,557.00	cu.m.
20	Aggregate Sub-Base Course	548.20	cu.m.
21	Aggregate Base Course	762.60	cu.m.
43	Reinforcing Steel Bars	3,748.16	kgs.
44	Structural Concrete	57.23	cu.m.
49	Painting (Bailey Bridge)	lot	l.s.
50(3)	Underdrains (610 dia. RCP)	66.00	l.m.
51.2	Riprap & Grouted Riprap	42.14	cu.m.
52	Stone Masonry	45.21	cu.m.

Minimum Equipments Required

Bulldozer (1 unit)-owned/leased; Road Roller Vibratory Compactor (9 ton min. 1 unit)-owned; Road Grader (1 unit)-owned/leased; Loader (1 unit)-owned; Dump Truck (4 units)-owned/leased; Backhoe (1 unit)-owned or lease; Water truck (1 unit)-owned; Bagger mixer (1 unit)-owned, Concrete Vibrator (1 unit)-owned; survey instruments-leased/owned.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Magsaysay, Province of Occidental Mindoro starting January 23, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 5,000.00 for each set. Pre-bid conference will be held in the same address on February 7, 2006 at 2:00 PM.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security of PhP 40,000.00 in form, **Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee**, on a free convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Secretariat Office, Municipality of Magsaysay, Province of Occidental Mindoro, on or before the Bid closing date on February 22, 2006 at 2:00 PM, at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

The LGU-BAC ARCDPII of Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnify to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) JESUS JONJIE A. VENTURANZA
Chairman, LGU BAC-ARCDPII

(PDI – January 22, 2006)

Campbell retains Hope Classic lead

PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA—Chad Campbell kept chipping away at par Friday in the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, shooting a 4-under 68 for a four-stroke lead after three rounds.

He went to 19-under 197 through 54 holes of the 90-hole event. Scott Verplank had a 65 and John Senden a 68 to tie for second.

Phil Mickelson, who won the Hope in 2002 and 2004 and is making his first start of the year, had a 68 that left him six shots off the lead. Pat Perez tied him for fourth at 13 under, shooting a 70.

A model of consistency, Campbell finally had his first bogey of the tournament on his 17th hole of the day, No. 8 on the Arnold Palmer Course at PGA West. That ended a string of 60 consecutive holes without a bogey dating to his runner-up finish in Hawaii last weekend. *AP*

SPORTS PATRON: The INQUIRER's Jasmine Payo (second from left) presents San Miguel Corporation its Philippine Sportswriters Association citation for the food and beverage giant's support to sports. San Miguel, which backed 13 sports disciplines that contributed 56 gold medals to the overall championship effort of the country in last year's Southeast Asian Games, was represented by (from left) Ginebra team manager Allan Caidic, Coca-Cola team manager Hector Calma, San Miguel assistant vice president for sports and external affairs Robert Non, Magnolia Ice Cream PBL governor Chito Loyzaga, media relations manager Mary Jane Francisco, Magnolia team manager Peter Martin, Purefoods team manager Alvin Patrimonio and San Miguel Beermen manager Samboy Lim. RUDY ESPERAS

Iverson, Webber key Philadelphia victory

PHILADELPHIA—ALLEN IVERSON hit the tying jumper with 3.2 seconds left in regulation and scored 30 points to lift the Philadelphia 76ers to an 89-86 overtime victory over the Memphis Grizzlies on Friday night.

Chris Webber opened overtime with a three-point play, Kyle Korver sank a 3-pointer and Samuel Dalembert had two clutch blocked shots on Pau Gasol that gave the Sixers a four-point lead.

The Grizzlies lost their fourth straight game.

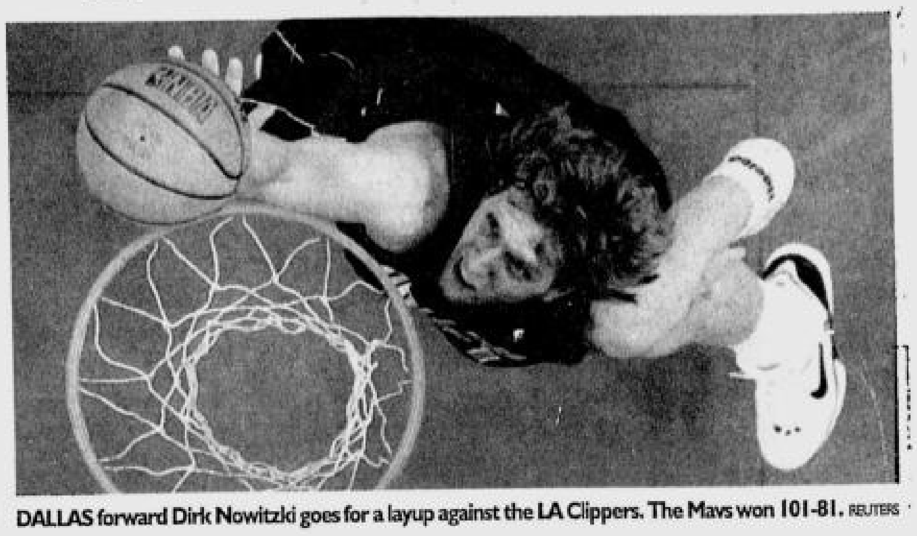
Webber finished with 29 points and Dalembert grabbed 11 rebounds.

Eddie Jones led Memphis with 22 points, Lorenzen Wright had 10 points and 10 rebounds and Bobby Jackson had 14 points.

In Minneapolis, Wally Szczerbiak scored 20 points and Eddie Griffin had 17 points, 14 rebounds and six blocks to lead Minnesota over Indiana, 90-85.

Minnesota shot 75 percent in the first period of its fourth victory in five games and had all five starters finish in double figures.

In Phoenix, Shawn Marion had 22 points and 16 rebounds to go with Steve Nash's 17 points, 12 assists and nine rebounds, and the Phoenix Suns beat the Los Angeles Lakers for the sixth straight time, 106-93.



DALLAS forward Dirk Nowitzki goes for a layup against the LA Clippers. The Mavs won 101-81. REUTERS

Kobe joins US 5

Kobe Bryant plans to play for the US team at this year's world basketball championships and the 2008 Olympics.

"I'm very excited, man, very excited," Bryant said Friday night.

"We as Americans, we respond so much to challenges," Bryant said. "This is a challenge. We're so used to being at the top of the sport for so many years and now that we're not up there, we have a clear challenge ahead of ourselves." *AP*

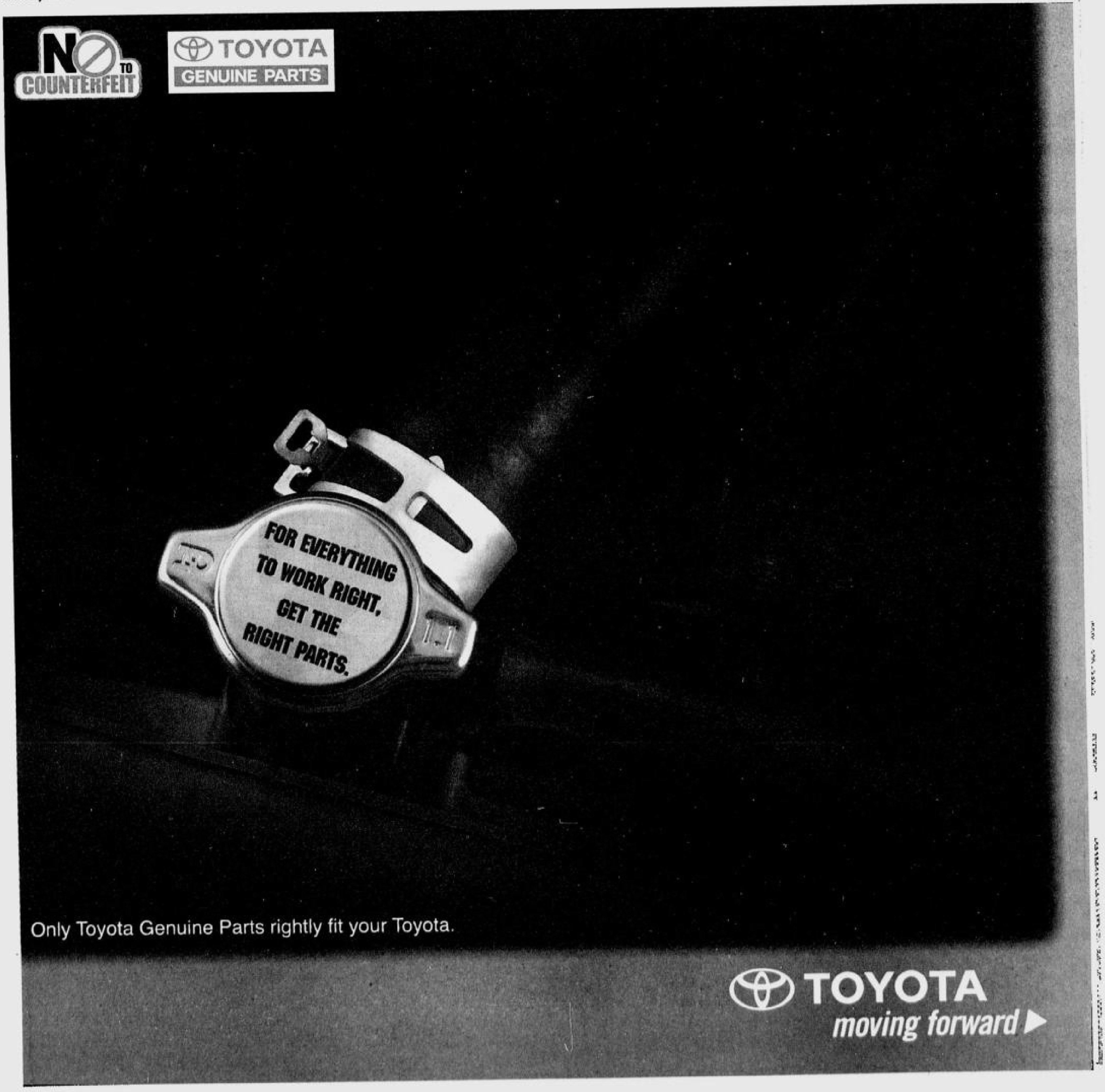
COMPLETE NBA RESULTS: Milwaukee 118, Atlanta 102 ; Washington 110, New Orleans 99; Boston 99, New Jersey 96; Orlando 104, Charlotte 93; San Antonio 101, Miami 94; Houston 109, Chicago 108, 2OT; Denver 113, Utah 83; Toronto 121, Seattle 113; Dallas 101, LA Clippers 81; Golden State 99, Cleveland 79

US grants Cuba World Cup slot

NEW YORK—THE CUBANS WILL be allowed to participate in the inaugural World Baseball Classic after the US government reversed course Friday and issued the special license necessary for the communist nation to play in the 16-team tournament.

Baseball's first application was denied in mid-December by the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, but the commissioner's office and the players' association reapplied Dec. 22 after Cuba said it would donate any profits it receives to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The license was required by 45-year-old American sanctions against Cuba designed to prevent Fidel Castro's government from receiving US currency. *AP*



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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Tortillos complete PBL semifinal cast

By Jasmine W. Payo

GRANNY GOOSE COOLED OFF IN THE THIRD quarter, but recovered in the final period to post an 88-81 victory over Montaña Pawnshop and claim the last semifinal berth in the PBL Heroes Cup yesterday at the San Andres Gym.

"I'm happy that it happened in the third quarter," said coach Joe Lipa, referring to the 16-point lead which his Tortillos blew early in the second half. "Our biggest asset was the will of the boys. They don't like to lose so they played hard."

The semifinal round starts Thursday with top-seeded Rain or Shine battling Harbour Centre and second-ranked Magnolia Ice Cream facing Granny Goose.

As the top performers in the elimination round, Rain or Shine and Magnolia earned one-game incentives in the best-of-five series. Thus, the two pacesetters only need to post two victories, while Harbour Centre and Granny Goose must win thrice to advance to the finals.

Playmaker Chico Laneta paced the Tortillos with 17 points, eight of them in the final quarter. Jam Alfad notched 14 points and 12 rebounds.

With the Tortillos' offense sputtering early in the second half, the Jewels mounted a 16-0 comeback in a span of three minutes to tie the game at 55.

Alex Compton scored eight points, including back-to-back triples, in the Jewels' third-quarter run.

Eric dela Cuesta nailed two straight treys to give the Jewels' their first advantage at 57-61,

The scores:

GRANNY GOOSE 88-Laneta 17, Alfad 14, Lalonio 13, Quiñahan 9, David 8, Cruz 7, Concha 7, Ibañes 5, Santos 5, Almeda 2, Grijaldo 1.

MONTAÑA 81-Compton 21, Dela Cuesta 14, Vergara 14, Juntilla 11, Magpayo 7, Bono 5, Capus 4, Mercado 2, Castro 2, Baguion 1.

Quarters: 30-24, 50-39, 66-64, 88-81

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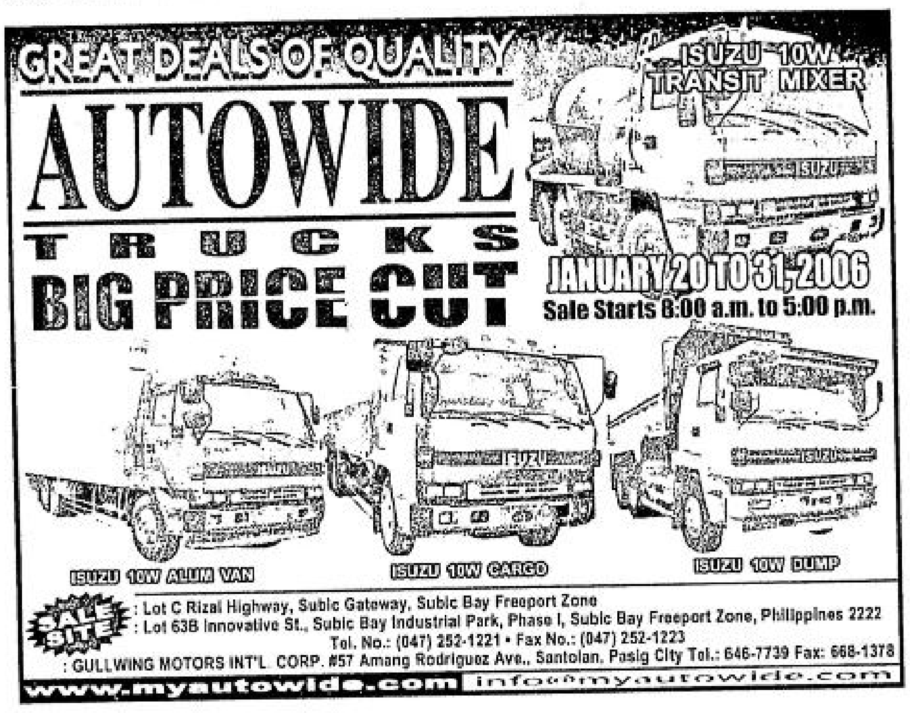

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Malarayat Chair's Cup puts up Vios

LIPA CITY—THE NUMBER OF ENTRIES FOR the 8th Malarayat Chairman's Cup swelled past last year's roster even as a brand new Toyota Vios has been put up for grabs with an ace that can come from three par-3s of the complex.

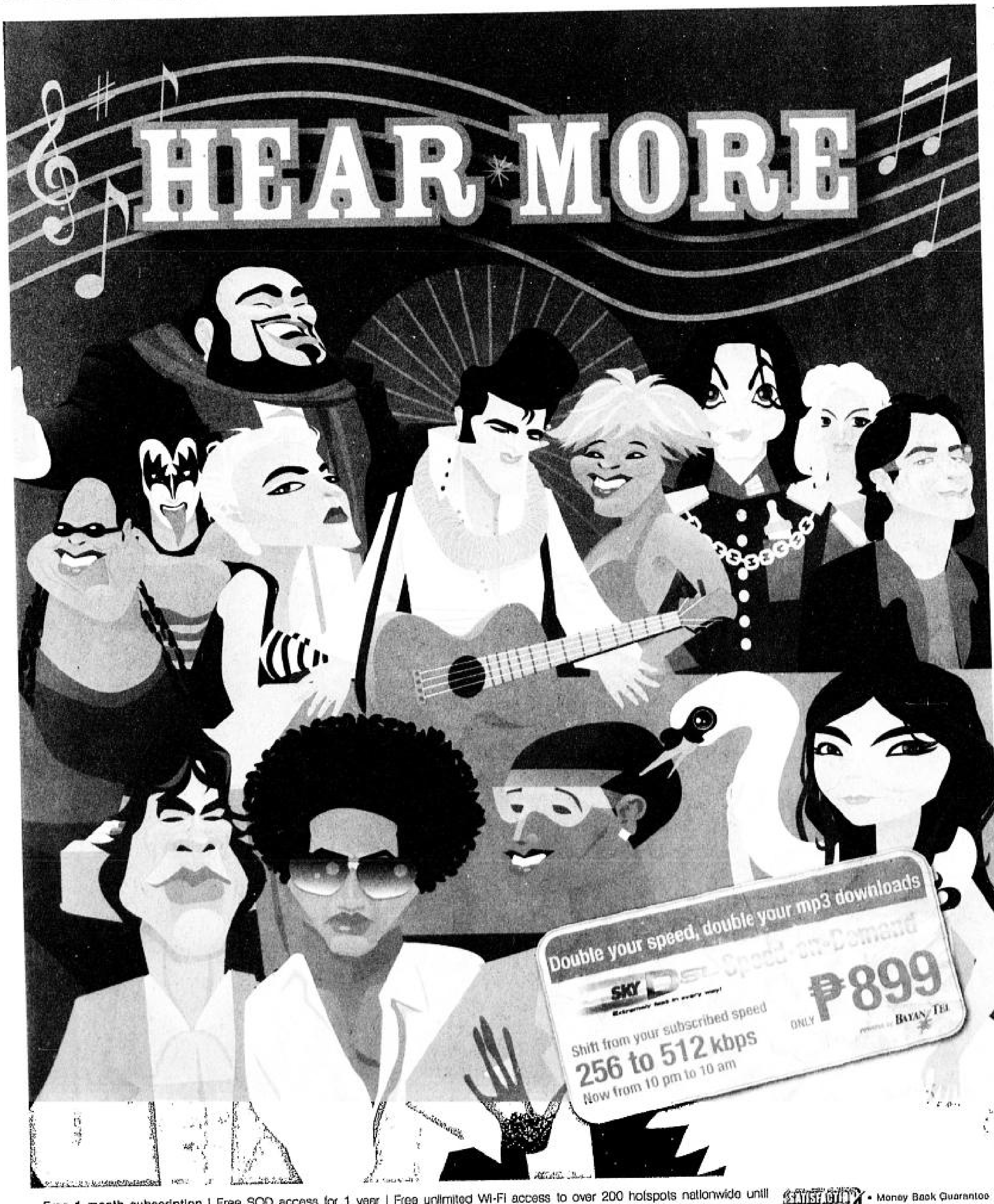
Members and guests have shown great interest in the 18-hole tournament set Jan. 28 and club chair Arch. Antonio Turalba has shown his appreciation back by staking the car in more than one hole.

"We want someone to win the car," Turalba said. "That's why we have decided not to designate just one hole for the prize but three."

A brand new Yamaha golf cart will be the hole-in-one prize in the three other par-3s of the modern complex as more than 200 entries have so far registered for the event that will use all three nines—Mts. Makulot, Lobo and Malipunyo.

Attractive giveaways will be handed out to each participant of the tournament with registration to close at the end of the week.

FAMILY AFFAIR: A father and his son compete in the Family Two Ball Challenge, one of the events held during the recent Coach E Basketball School-Burlington cagefest at the clubsixfifty in Quezon City. Call 6311195 or 09217562639 or e-mail iba_phil@yahoo.com for the Jan. 25 and Jan. 27 classes.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First Gent main guest in Pro-Am

FIRST GENTLEMAN MIKE ARROYO HAS been invited to be the guest of honor in the Konica-Minolta National Pro-Am at Riviera on Feb. 7-11.

Arroyo was picked to hit the ceremonial tee shot of the Celebrity Pro-Am on Feb. 7 kicking off the P1.7 million tilt presented by U-Bix Corporation through its President and COO, Bert Bravo.

"We will be deeply touched to have the First Gentleman as our honored guest for the occasion," said Bravo, who co-chairs the tournament's executive committee with Benny Gopez, president of the organizing National Golf Association of the Philippines.

Arroyo will also play in the Celebrity Pro-Am that stakes a Toyota Innova as a hole-in-one prize at No. 4 of Langer.

Joining him in the celebrity list are Konica Minolta Business Technologies executives Shoei Yamana, Tadahiko Sumitani, Morichi Miyazaki and Hiroyuki Katano.

"We are, indeed, privileged to have these distinguished gentlemen join the First Gentleman as our guests at our humble course," said Comm. Danny Pizarro (ret.), chair of the organizing committee and president of Riviera.

Gerard Cantada and JR Tanpinco will shoot for a third straight title in the event backed by Grappa's Restaurant, Pivo Praha and S-Yard. Registration are at NGAP tel. nos. 5256987 or 5245160 or e-mail at ngapgolf@hotmail.com & website www.ngap.net, or Riviera at (046) 4142868/2837.

NCO bets now with Canlubang

CALATAGAN, BATANGAS—THE NATIONAL Caddies' Open achieved the goals it set out to do at the start of last year after four of its beneficiaries earned berths in the Canlubang team that will play in the Philippine Airlines Interclub next month.

Mario and Joseph Labajo, and Mark Fernando will all be Sugar Barons come the Interclub, making the organization satisfy its vision of changing these players' lives for the better forever.

Jonel Ababa, the winner of the first tournament last year, earned a first alternate's slot even as the NCO has set the second staging for next month with the same life-changing perks at stake.

Interested participants can enter through the NCO secretariat at Calatagan (fax 0919-5470619 or Wack Wack c/o Carlito Cernal (027238556) on or before Feb. 10. Inquiries can be coursed through Dave Hernandez at 0917-8425275 and 0917-8425257.

This year's event will be limited to those 25 and under. Sons of caddies and golf course employees like greens and grounds-keepers and even driving range boys will be accepted.

"Of course, our long-term goal is to be able to make a contribution to the Philippine Team," said Benjamin Abalos, co-chair of the NCO together with sportsman Hermie Esguerra.

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Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

'Maximo' blossoms in Sundance

THEY'RE happy about it, of course. This is just one of the movie's dramatic highlights. From left, Ping Medina, Nathan Lopez and Soliman Cruz.

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Pinoy indie receives distribution inquiries from Miramax, New Line, Weinstein Brothers and Sony Classics

AURAEUS SOLITO'S "ANG Pagdadalaga ni (The Blossoming of) Maximo Oliveros," the first Filipino feature film to compete in the prestigious Sundance Film Festival, which opened on Jan. 19, has received distribution inquiries from both mainstream and independent firms, according to producer Raymond Lee of ufo Pictures.

Lee told INQUIRER Entertainment: "We got e-mails and phone calls from major companies like Miramax, New Line, the Weinstein Brothers and Sony Classics. We have sent them screeners. These inquiries are for possible distribution in the United States or all over the globe, depending on how much they like the film."

According to Lee, the big companies' interest in "Maximo" was probably sparked by its inclusion in Sundance's World Cinema (dramatic) competition, where it is up against 15 entries from countries as divergent as Bosnia-Herzegovina and Peru. (From 936 submissions, the list was narrowed down to 16.)

"Maximo" is among the total 120 feature films to be screened in the festival.

Founded by actor-director Robert Redford, the world's premier independent film fest runs in Park City, Utah until Jan. 29.

At the opening news conference on Thursday, Redford said Sundance's knack for showcasing films that went on to reap commercial success drew marketers hoping to share the limelight.

"Once the festival achieved a certain level of notoriety, then people began to come here with agendas that were not the same as ours," Redford said. "We cannot do anything about that. We can't control that."

He is commenting on observations that Sundance has "gone Hollywood with all the celebrity bashes and corporate logos splashed around town."

Aside from film showings, the ski-resort town is also hosting "parties, concerts and other events to promote products as diverse as jewelry and jeans, washing machines and sports-utility vehicles."

In Sundance, "Maximo" filmmakers will get a glimpse of the Hollywood high life. Lee, with director Solito and scriptwriter Michiko Yamamoto, left last Wednesday for the US.

Now for a third-world reality check:

A week before the Sundance trip, Lee was still finalizing sponsorship deals with both the government and private sectors. "We need help for our cell phone and hotel bills," Lee told INQUIRER Entertainment. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts eventually approved a grant for their plane fare, he subsequently reported in an e-mail from Utah.

Aside from mainstream companies, two in de-

'MAXIMO'/A2-2

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

DAYRIT

Dayrit is CEB chair

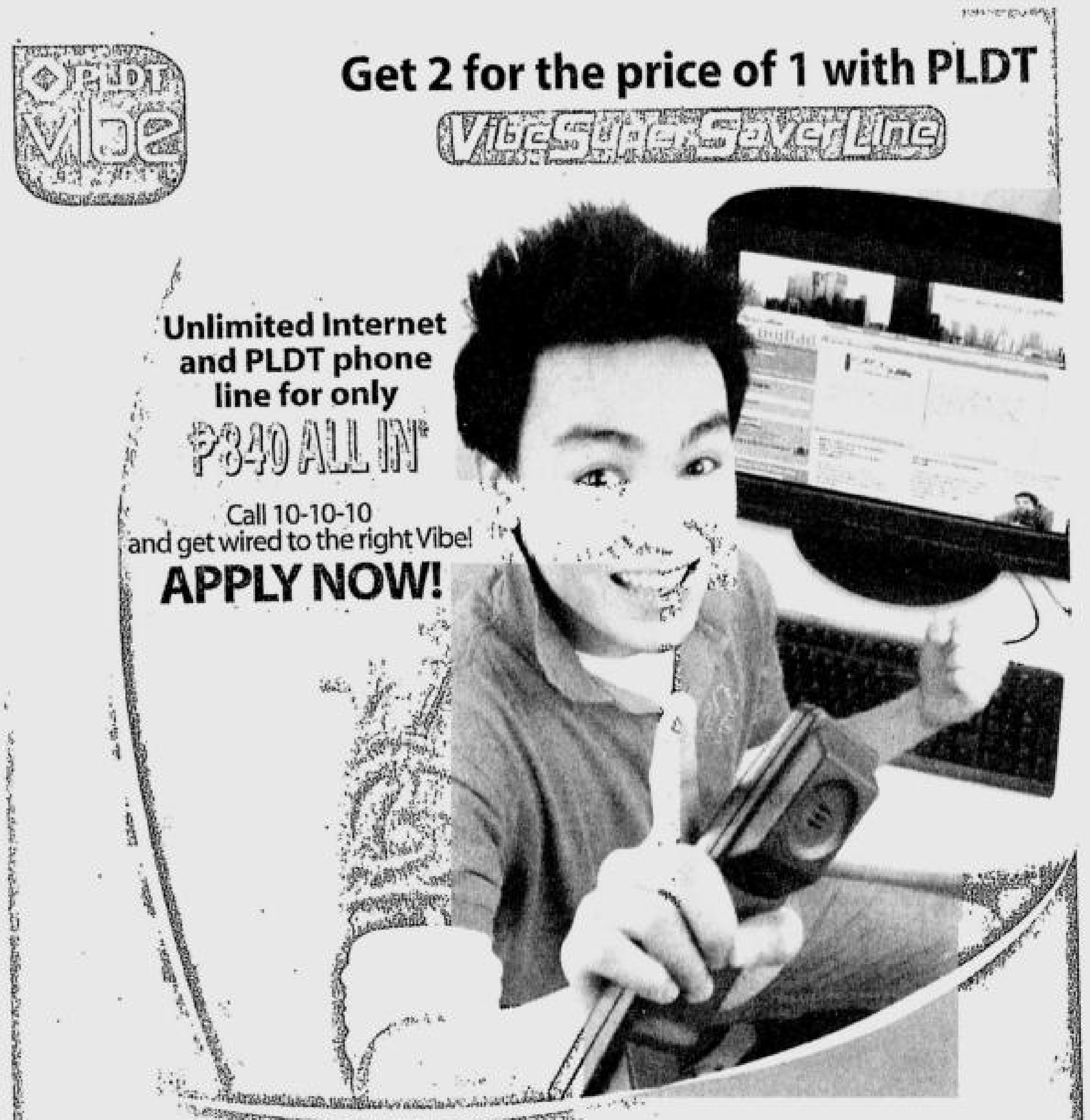
By Bayani San Diego Jr.

MOVIE/TV PRODUCER and travel writer Christine S. Dayrit is the new chair of the Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB), the government body mandated to reward well-crafted films with tax incentives.

News of Dayrit's formal appointment was relayed to INQUIRER Entertainment by Rolando "Jacky" Atienza—outgoing CEB chair and current head of the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP).

The CEB is under the FDCP. Dayrit's ap

DAYRIT/A2-2



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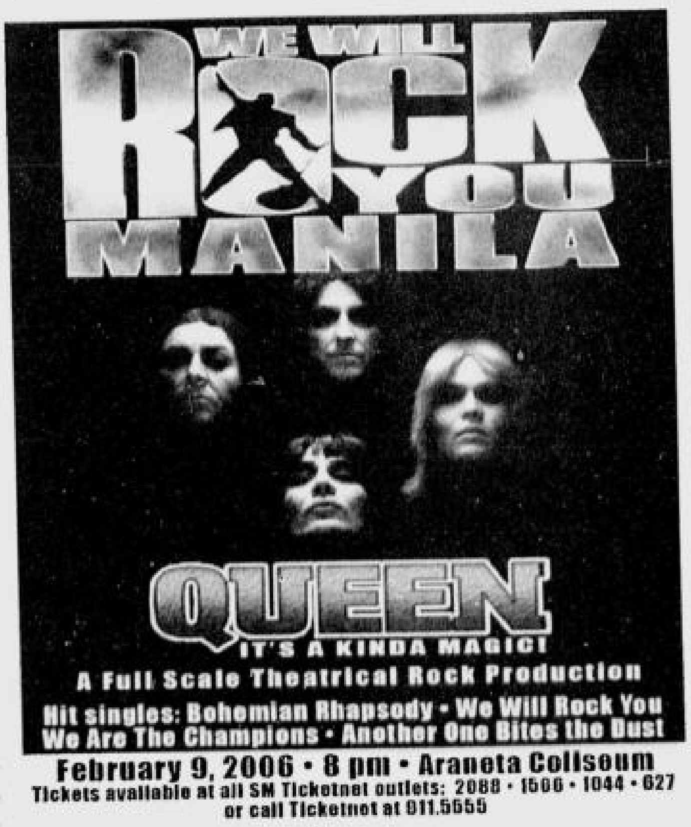

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Golden Globe awards

FELICITY Huffman as a man preparing for a sex change surgery in "Transamerica."

THROUGH THE YEARS, THE GOLDEN Globe movie and TV awards have generally served as a preview of the Oscars. For 2005, however, the recently-announced Golden Globe verdicts have made their own unique impact not related to the Academy Awards.

This is due to the fact that a number of key 2005 award winners have something unusual in common: They're all gender benders.

Topping the list is Best Dramatic Film winner "Brokeback Mountain," which is about two gay cowboys' (**Heath Ledger** and **Jake Gyllenhaal**) love for each other.

The film also won Best Direction for **Ang Lee**, Best Screenplay for **Larry McMurtry** and **Diana Ossana**), and Best Original Song for **Gustavo Santaolalla** and **Bernie Taupin**'s "A Love That Will Never Grow Old."

For her part, **Felicity Huffman** bagged the Best Dramatic Actress plum for her similarly edgy portrayal of a man preparing to undergo a sex change operation in "Transamerica."

To round out the Golden Globes' trio of gender benders, **Philip Seymour Hoffman** played gay playwright **Truman Capote** in a bio-pic and romped off with the Best Dramatic Actor trophy.

These multiple awards indicate that the awards' gender-bending bent for 2005 is no fluke, and is in fact a sign that the so-called "third sex" is finally breaking into mainstream cinema in a more "accepted" and non-confrontational way.

There have been gay movies that were similarly released on the mainstream theater circuit, but they have tended to be over-the-top ("Myra Breckingridge") or shrill ("To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything—Julie Newmar").

On the other hand the 2005 winners are more forthright or casually confident, despite the admittedly outre material of "Transamerica," and the fact that its Best Dramatic Actress awardee, Felicity Huffman, plays a man.

Film industry observer hopes that this will help moviegoers become similarly accepting of other people's gender choices in their own lives, and drastically reduce sexist bias and discrimination in society.

To be sure, not everything is coming up roses—or pansies—for gays and lesbians, even those found on the big screen. For instance, "Brokeback Mountain" has been banned in some communities.

Happily, however, they have been in the distinct minority, so hopes are high

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NARNIA 1:10 / 4:00 / 6:50 / 9:40
LITTLE MANHATTAN 1:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
BLUE MOON 1:00 / 3:20
JARHEAD 1:55 / 4:30 / 7:05 / 9:40
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
UNDERWORLD 2 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
ONLY P120 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P240/P299

ALIMALL CINEMAS
DON'T GIVE UP ON US 12:45 / 3:15 / 5:45 / 8:15
UNANG TIKIM 12:10 / 2:10 / 4:10 / 6:10 / 8:10
UNDERWORLD 2 1:10 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10
JARHEAD 12:35 / 3:10 / 5:45 / 8:20
NARNIA 12:00 / 2:40 / 5:20 / 8:00
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS
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EVENTS & PROMOS
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SHOPWISE ARCADE

Dayrit is C

From page A2-1

pointment came from the Office of the President.

Atienza said Dayrit "is not just qualified, she's also young." The FDCP, he added, "wants to tap new blood, to inject innovative ideas and a fresh perspective into the film industry."

Dayrit, 39, expressed gratitude for and optimism about her new job. "I'm both surprised and humbled by it," she told INQUIRER Entertainment. "Under the direction of, and in close coordination with, the FDCP, I will give my best to help the local movie industry."

She took up masters in Film Production at the Boston University and co-produced "Hiram na Mukha" and "Andres Manambit" for Viva Films and "Lihim ni Madonna" and the remakes of "Isla" and "Virgin People" for Four Aces Films.

"'Andres Manambit,' starring Eddie Garcia, won Best Picture and all the major awards at the 1992 Metro Manila Film Festival," Dayrit recounted.

She also produced TV movies for GMA 7, includ

‘Maximo’ h in Sundanc

pendent distribution firms based in the US—Strand Releasing and Wellspring—have also expressed interest in "Maximo."

"Critic Godfrey Cheshire earlier told these indie companies about our film," said Lee. A staunch supporter of indies, Cheshire was a juror in the Montreal World Film Festival, where "Maximo" topped the First Films section. "Maximo" also won Best Picture honors

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go on a gender bender

INDER

tream society's attitude re-
ender benders is indeed

* * *

chologist-educator Lorenzo of Sophia School, Meycauayan, Bulacan:

"I would like to join you in your appeal not to rush children through childhood. It would be best for them to undergo
s that are developmentally
.

d here are letting them
sing, dance, dress and be-
ling to their age, culture and
differences. They must not
do things that are too ad-
nfit for them.

language, they should be al-
children and not miniature
kewise, their childhood
be cut short, and their devel-
st take the natural course.

mary objective is to insulate
vhat is termed by Dr. David
levelopmental psychologist,
ied child syndrome! This is a
here children, because they
ed to grow up too soon, pre-
ve a life that is meant for

result, they are
vhich in turn could develop
physical and psycho-emo-
ctions. Prime among them
ulcer, bedwetting, eating
ig disorders, fear of failure
risks, feelings of incompe-
nworthiness, etc.

ight side, I would like to en-
parents, teachers, child care-
V people responsible for Kid-
arches and shows with chil-
nstays to rethink our present
ling with kids.

ing, we can arrive at prac-
ire genuinely beneficial to
vards.

even if they're 'only' children,
nothing but the best from
and role models—that's us!"

ACK

EB chair

ing "Walang Katapusang Wakas," which won the GMA Bahaghari Awards, she said.

She produced a total of 51 TV movies directed by Joel Lamangan, Celso Ad. Castillo, Boots Plata, among others in the 1990s.

Dayrit has been serving as CEB member since March 31, 2003. "I've had two terms as a member," she said. "As chair, I hope to institute and support measures to strengthen the film industry—including tax breaks for equipment importation and audience development by spearheading film appreciation classes among the youth."

Apart from actress Elizabeth Oropesa, another newly appointed CEB member is Paolo Alessandro Herras, a scriptwriter and faculty member of the Arts Management program of the School of Design and Arts of De La Salle University-College of St. Benilde.

He is representing the arts, academe, business and other sectors.

INQUIRER Entertainment columnist Nestor U. Torre will continue his term as CEB vice chair, Atienza said.

lossoms
ce

From page A2-1

at the imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival in Toronto and at the Asian Festival of First Films in Singapore.

"Our movie also received offers from French, British and Japanese distribution companies," Lee said.

Sales agent Ferdie Lapuz also inked distribution deals in Europe and Canada for "Maximo." *With a report from AP*

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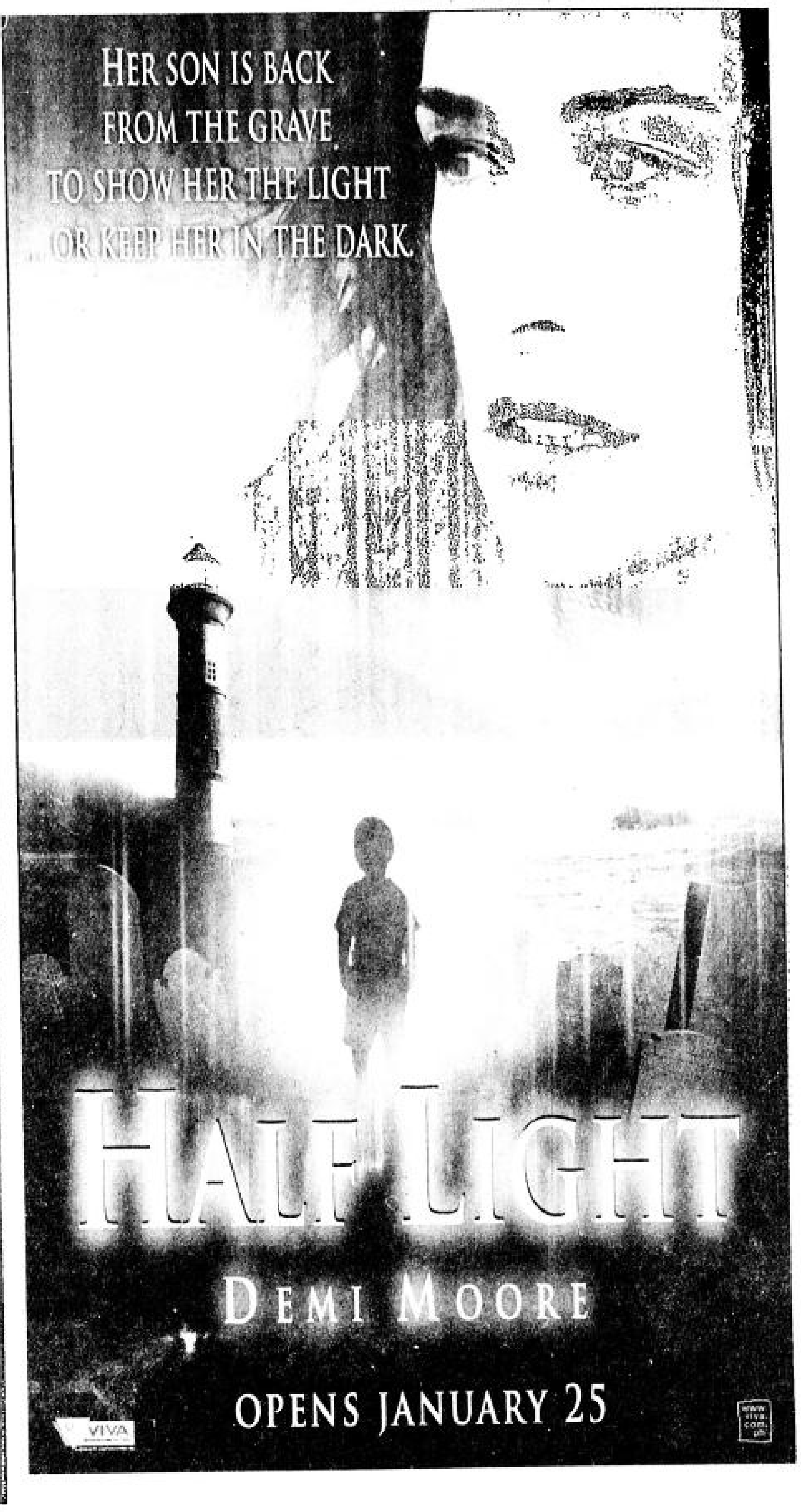
HER SON IS BACK
FROM THE GRAVE.
TO SHOW HER THE LIGHT
OR KEEP HER IN THE DARK.
HALF LIGHT
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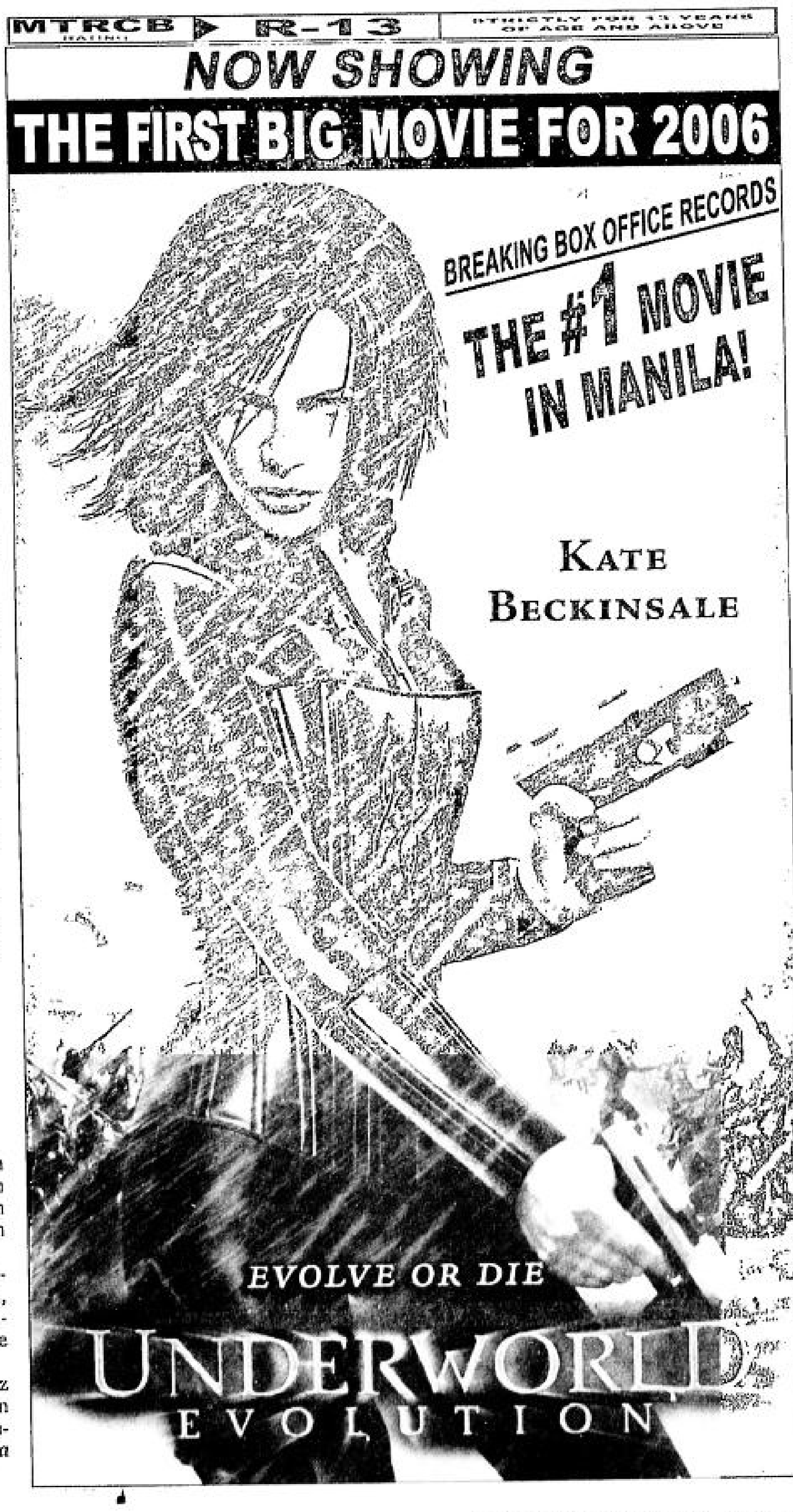
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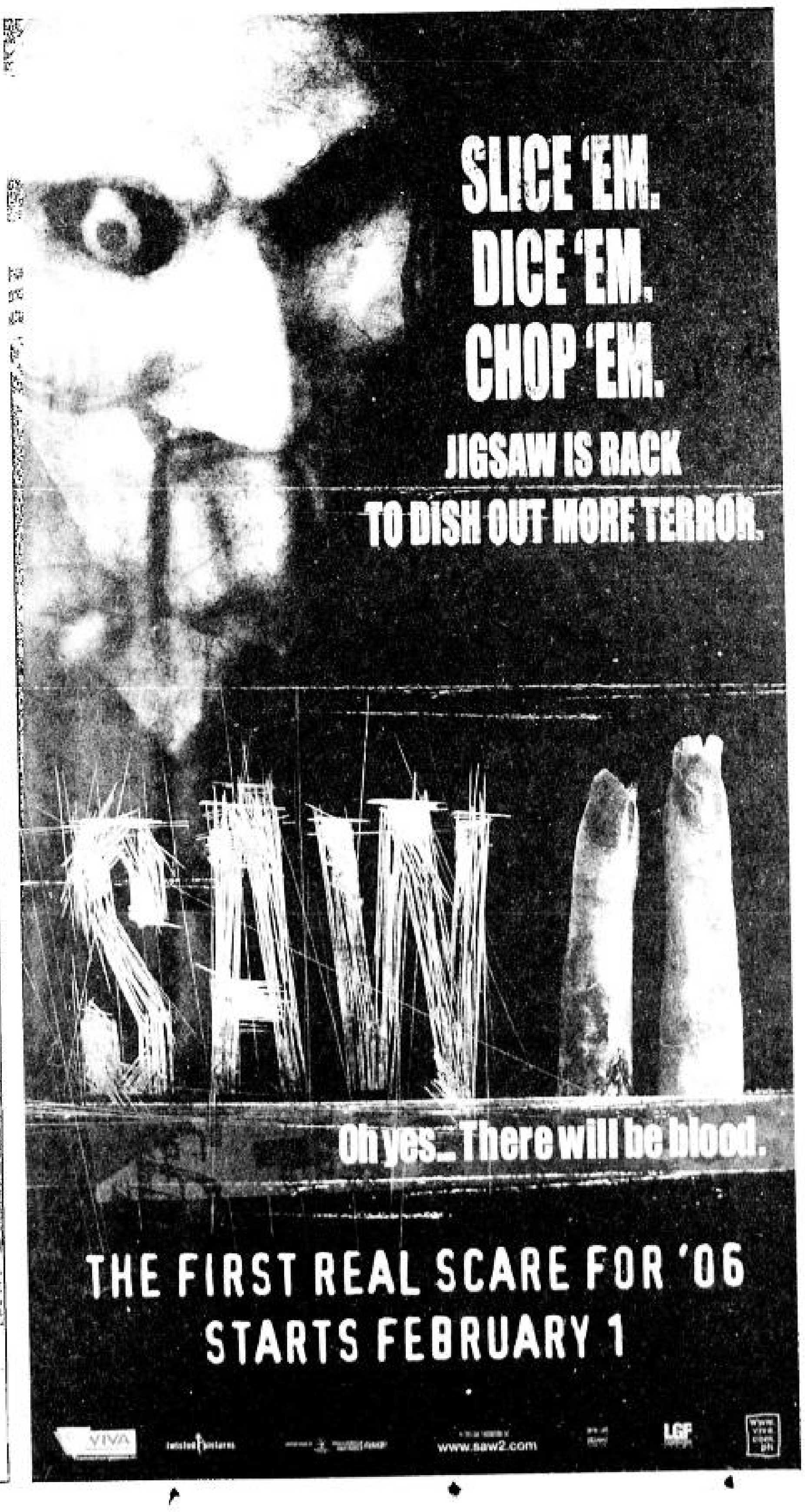
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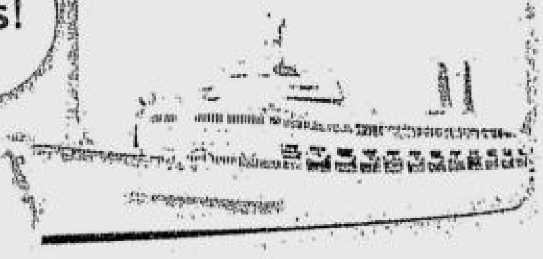

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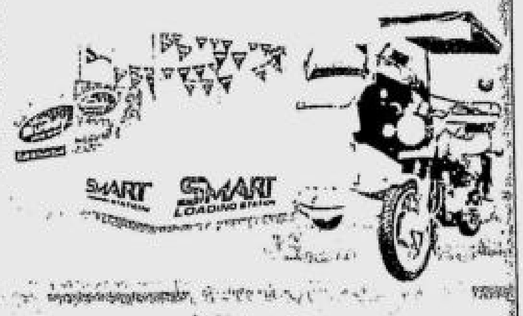

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PDI's man in LA, in a red carpet moment with with Ziyi Zhang

JANET SUSAN R. NEPALES

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

EVEN AS THE PHOTOGRAphers on the red carpet were yelling "Ziyi, over here! Over here!" **Ziyi Zhang**, resplendent in an Armani gown on the red carpet, turned to me and asked, "Did you get my note?" What a sweet girl. Amid the frenzy, she wanted to make sure I had received her New Year greeting.

My daughter **Nikki** texted me, teasing, "Stop hogging the red carpet scene." She was watching the arrivals coverage on the E! channel and has seen enough of her daddy walking up and down the red carpet, trying to help keep the A-list traffic moving.

Couturier turned E! fashion commentator **Isaac Mizrahi** added to the craziness by fondling **Scarlett Johansson's** left breast! He asked **Teri Hatcher, Felicity Huffman** and **Sandra Oh** what undies they were wearing—if any. Teri fled.

As in last year—since we were covering the arrivals as other guests were already chewing their fillet mignon inside the ballroom—when we came in a few minutes before the show, we wolfed down the appetizers and had to beg for our entrees. After eating the steak and fish fillet, we had dessert during the show.

Since we were writing a front page coverage story, the huge Moet & Chandon champagne bottle sitting temptingly on the ice bucket taunted us throughout the show but we took only a sip.

And while my wife **Janet** was seen on television by some friends and relatives (even a friend from the Philippines), especially when **Steve Carell** won for Best Actor in a TV comedy series, a pal of mine from Manila said she saw me, too, but said I was "looking down, probably fiddling with your Blackberry." Yes, I was hunched down but I was not busy texting; I was writing notes for my story and for this column!

Champagne not enough

The action during the commercial breaks was as interesting as the show proper. The stars stood up to schmooze or go to the restrooms or the open bar (**Jamie Foxx**, in diamond-studded shades, tipped a bartender $200). Some folks who lost ran to the bar at the next commercial break. I guess the champagne was not enough.

Don Johnson, passing by **Charlie Sheen's** table, winked at the latter and gave him a bear hug. This was after Charlie lost to Steve. Don's ex, **Melanie Griffith**, wore a sleeveless gown, exposing a tattoo on her right arm that depicted a heart, with "Antonio" scrawled inside. That's **Antonio Banderas**, of course.

Will Ferrell, on the other hand, walked over to his fellow "Saturday Night Live" alum, **Steve Carell**, and gave him a congratulatory hug. **Emma Thompson** went up to Ziyi and bussed her after the latter lost in the Best Actress, Drama (Film) category.

Reese Witherspoon was one of this industry crowd's favorites. Many shouted "Reese! Reese!" before the winner in the Best Actress in a musical or comedy film was announced (and she did win).

Teri went up to **Mary-Louise Parker** and hugged her—the latter defeated Teri and her fellow "Desperate Housewives" in the Best Actress in a TV Comedy Series race.

Jason Lee, whose table was right in front of us, was about to stand up (presumably to schmooze, too) during a commercial break, but was prevailed upon to stay because his show's ("My Name is Earl") category, Best TV Comedy Series, was up next.

Adrien Brody, holding two beer bottles, paused on his way back to his table to talk to someone on his cell phone. Love birds **Matthew McConaughey** and **Penelope Cruz** held hands as they walked away from their table.

REESE Witherspoon AFP

Other attractive couples: **Kate Beckinsale** and **Len Wiseman**, star and director, respectively, of "Underworld Evolution"; and **Zach Braff** and Mandy Moore.

A winner inadvertently pronounced Focus (name of an indie company) as "F- - k us" and caused the ballroom crowd to giggle.

Ang Lee, after getting over the thrill of receiving the Best Director trophy from "The Man" no less, **Clint Eastwood**, gave one of the night's many wonderful acceptance speeches. He thanked his fellow filmmakers for using "the power of filmmakers to change the way we're thinking."

John Travolta and **Leonardo DiCaprio** evoked old Hollywood glamour—other actors should be just as well-groomed and dressed.

What a push!

Teri, **Marcia Cross** and **Eva Longoria** let out a joyous scream when their fellow "desperada," Felicity Huffman, won Best Actress in Film, Drama plum.

When I saw **Ryan Philippe** push his wife Reese after she won Best Actress in a Musical or Comedy, I thought he must have been re ally happy—it was quite an exuberant push. "My husband pushed me so hard, I almost fell

LIGHTS/ A3-3

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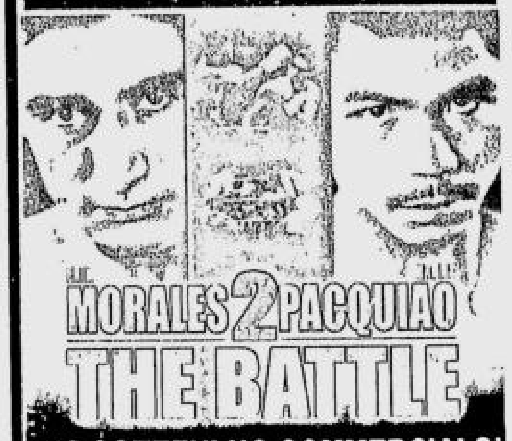

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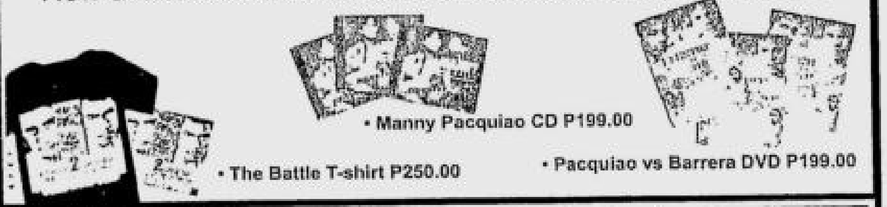

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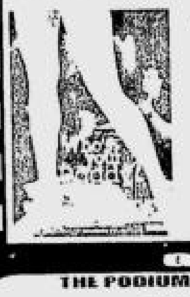

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1 RUMOR HAS IT
11:50FS 12:15MF 02:25 04:35 06:45 08:25LFS 09:00LMF/10:40END

2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
11:50FS 12:20MF 03:10/06:00 08:20LFS 09:00LMF/11:20END

MEGAMALL

AKO LEGAL WIFE
01:35FS 02:05MF 04:20 06:35 08:20LFS 08:150LMF/10:035E20

CEBU (032) 231-3876

1 UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION
10:10FS/10:15MF/12:30 02:45 05:00 07:15 09:00LFS 09:30LMF/11:15END

2 UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION
12:40FS 01:00MF 03:15/05:30 07:15LFS/07:45LMF/09:30END

3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
12:30FS 02:45MF 05:00 07:15 09:15LFS 09:30LMF 11:30END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 RUMOR HAS IT
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 KING KONG
5 LITTLE MANHATTAN
6 NARNIA
7 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
8 AKO LEGAL WIFE
9 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
11 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
12 BLUE MOON

SM CITY STA. MESA
LITTLE MANHATTAN
NARNIA
DON'T GIVE UP ON US
KING KONG
UNDERWORLD 2
AKO LEGAL WIFE
ENTENG KABISOTE 2
RUMOR HAS IT
WHO'S YOUR DADDY
BLUE MOON

SM CITY BICUTAN
UNDERWORLD 2
DON'T GIVE UP ON US
NARNIA
KING KONG

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
UNDERWORLD 2
UNDERWORLD 2
NARNIA
DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
BLUE MOON
AKO LEGAL WIFE
ENTENG KABISOTE 2
UNDERWORLD 2
DON'T GIVE UP ON US
KING KONG
UNDERWORLD 2
RUMOR HAS IT
NARNIA
WHO'S YOUR DADDY
LITTLE MANHATTAN
RESERVE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
KING KONG
LITTLE MANHATTAN
ENTENG KABISOTE 2
WHO'S YOUR DADDY
DON'T GIVE UP ON US
NARNIA
RUMOR HAS IT
UNDERWORLD 2
KUTOB
RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
ENTENG KABISOTE 2
UNDERWORLD 2
DON'T GIVE UP ON US
NARNIA

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
UNDERWORLD 2
DON'T GIVE UP ON US
LITTLE MANHATTAN
WHO'S YOUR DADDY
DON'T GIVE UP ON US
RUMOR HAS IT
UNDERWORLD 2
NARNIA

SM CITY MANILA
WHO'S YOUR DADDY
RUMOR HAS IT
KING KONG
NARNIA
LITTLE MANHATTAN
UNDERWORLD 2
DON'T GIVE UP ON US
ENTENG KABISOTE 2
UNDERWORLD 2
AKO LEGAL WIFE
BLUE MOON
ST. ANGE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
UNDERWORLD 2
NARNIA
WHO'S YOUR DADDY
BLUE MOON
RUMOR HAS IT
DON'T GIVE UP ON US

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
NARNIA
WHO'S YOUR DADDY
IN HER SHOES
ENTENG KABISOTE 2
BEAUTIFUL BOXER
DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BAGUIO
NARNIA
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
IN HER SHOES
DON'T GIVE UP ON US

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NARNIA
ST. ANGE
DON'T GIVE UP ON US
KUTOB

SM CITY BACOOR
WHO'S YOUR DADDY
ENTENG KABISOTE 2
NARNIA
DON'T GIVE UP ON US
UNDERWORLD 2
RESERVED
BLUE MOON
KING KONG

SM CITY MARILAO
NARNIA
DON'T GIVE UP ON US
THE MAN
ST. ANGE

SM CITY DASMARINAS
NARNIA
THE MAN
DON'T GIVE UP ON US
ST. ANGE

SM CITY LUCENA
NARNIA
BEAUTIFUL BOXER
THE FOG
DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BATANGAS
JUST LIKE HEAVEN
DON'T GIVE UP ON US
NARNIA
AKO LEGAL WIFE

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
UNDERWORLD 2
UNDERWORLD 2
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
IN HER SHOES
WHO'S YOUR DADDY
KING KONG
DON'T GIVE UP ON US
NARNIA

SM CITY ILOILO
WHO'S YOUR DADDY
RESERVED
NARNIA
DON'T GIVE UP ON US
PRIME
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
RESERVED
IN HER SHOES

SM CITY DAVAO
NARNIA
JUST LIKE HEAVEN
DON'T GIVE UP ON US
IN HER SHOES
WHO'S YOUR DADDY
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
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EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

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UNDERWORLD 2	1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00	R-13
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30	GP
RUMOR HAS IT	1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00	PG-13
JARHEAD	12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00	R-18

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LITTLE MANHATTAN GP 2:00,4:00,6:00, 8:00,10:00	RUMOR HAS IT PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45 7:55,10:05	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GP 1:05,4:05,7:05,10:05
UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION R13 1:25,3:45,6:05,8:25	JARHEAD R18 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15	UNDERWORLD 2: EVOLUTION R13 12:55,3:15,5:35, 7:55,10:15

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SHANG CINEPLEX

1 UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION
MTRCB R 13
12:00 2:30 5:0

2 CHRONICLES OF NARNIA MTR
11:00 4:40 10

3 RUMOR HAS IT
MTR PG-13
1:00 30 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

4 LITTLE MANHATTAN
MTRCB GP
12:40, 2:45, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
JARHEAD
MTRCB 1:20 2:50 4:40 7:20 10:00

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ROUNDUP

Jolie-Pitts

JOLIE REUTERS

LOS ANGELES—A Los Angeles judge on Thursday granted Oscar-winning actress Angelina Jolie's request to change the last names of her children to reflect Brad Pitt's status as their adoptive father.

Superior Court Judge Linda Lefkowitz granted the petition during a brief and routine hearing that was not attended by either parent.

The ruling means that Jolie's children, 4-year-old Maddox and Zahara, who just turned one, will now carry the last name Jolie-Pitt. *Reuters*

Recycled

NEW YORK—REESE WITHERSPOON'S gown wasn't vintage—though it had been worn by another actress three years ago.

Photos published this week showed the Golden Globe winner wearing the same glittery Chanel cocktail dress that Kirsten Dunst had worn to the awards in 2003.

Witherspoon, the Best Actress in a musical or comedy winner for "Walk the Line," was seen asking Chanel president Maureen Chiquet at an after-party why she wasn't told the gown already had a public outing.

The fashion house apologized for "the oversight." *AP*

Daddy Crowe

CROWE AP

LOS ANGELES—OSCAR-winning Australian movie star Russell Crowe is to become a father for the second time, his publicist told AFP on Thursday.

Robin Baum, spokesperson for the 41-year-old Oscar Best Actor for "Gladiator," said Crowe's wife Danielle Spencer will deliver the child in July. *AFP*

Mommy Holly

LOS ANGELES—OSCAR-WINNING ACTRESS Holly Hunter has given birth to twins at the age of 47, People magazine reported.

The star's publicist told the celebrity publication last week: "They are happy and healthy."

No other details were immediately available. The twins are the first children for the star of the movie "The Piano" and her partner, British actor Gordon MacDonald. *AFP*

Twin trouble

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE—THEY SANG LIKE angels for their audition on Tuesday's "American Idol" premiere, but a pair of Memphis twins may sound more like jailbirds by the time the show goes live from Hollywood.

Terrell Brittenum, 28, has been in jail since Jan. 10 on an outstanding warrant for charges related to the illegal purchase of a car in Rockdale County, Georgia, east of Atlanta.

He and his brother, Derrell, are accused of using another man's identity to buy a 2005 Dodge Magnum in June. Derrell is expected to turn himself in.

The brothers auditioned together in September and the impressed judges sent them on the next round. Segments of the show have already been recorded and will air during the next few weeks.

Fox Broadcasting Co. refused to discuss the Brittenums or their status on the show. *AP*

'Idol' scolded

CLARKSON

PASADENA, CALIfornia—Former "American Idol" winner Kelly Clarkson, subject to a scolding from Simon Cowell for not letting her songs be used by new contestants on the television show, has agreed to do so, a spokesperson said.

Roger Widynowski, from Clarkson's Sony BMG record label, said Wednesday that Clarkson's management was negotiating with the show over which songs will be used.

A day earlier, he said Clarkson was not allowing any of her songs to be licensed for other purposes.

AI judge Cowell sharply criticized her. "I think that by ignoring the show you're ignoring the audience who put you there," Cowell said. *AP*

B.B. King tour

LOS ANGELES—WHILE OTHER 80-YEAR-olds might dust off their rockers, blues dynamo B.B. King will be rocking and rolling when he launches what he says will be his final world tour later this year.

King will begin an international "Farewell Tour" in March, part of a domestic tour that starts Feb. 16 in Chicago, King's publicist, Jerry Digney, said in a news release Wednesday.

King said he will continue to make US concert appearances after the tour.

"I hardly remember I'm 80 unless I have to run up a hill or stairs," the singer and guitarist said. "As long as people buy my records and come to my concerts, I don't see anything else I'd like to do." *AP*

Lights, motor, off-cam action!

From page A3-1

over," Reese was quoted later in the backstage press room. She quipped, "(He pushed me) like a linebacker."

Ryan, who was very good in "Crash" (but only **Matt Dillon** got nominated), won, too—he had bet that Reese's "Walk the Line" co-star, **Joaquin Phoenix**, would win (the latter wagered he was going to lose). So Joaquin paid Ryan right after his acceptance speech.

As we walked toward the exits after the show, we overheard "Rent" star **Jesse Martin** asking **S. Epatha Merkerson**, Best Actress in a TV Movie or Miniseries, "So which party are we going to hit first?" She quickly replied, "The HBO party!" Of course—the cable channel co-produced the show that made her win, "Lackawanna Blues."

Chocolate sculpture

At the Universal/Focus Features/NBC party, Best Supporting Actress (film) winner **Rachel Weisz** told us she was "going to explode with happiness." We hoped not—she was several months pregnant.

Leave it to InStyle, which teamed up with Warner Bros., to host the most stylish and fun party or parties—it seemed like two bashes in one. Upon entrance, guests ooh'd and ahh'd at pieces of "sculpture" made of Lady Godiva chocolates and the chocolate martini concoction amid a quiet, relaxing atmosphere. Then there was a huge inner sanctum where it was dark, loud and rocking! A live band played as guests like Eva Longoria and Best Supporting Actor **George Clooney** didn't seem to mind being jostled in such a packed atmosphere.

On our way out, we saw the new Superman, **Brandon Routh** on his way in. Looking fresh, young, with a full show biz life ahead of him, Brandon made us remember the much-missed Superman, **Christopher Reeve.**

Fire in the pool

We hurriedly checked out the parties of 20th Century Fox and HBO. A ring of fire blazed in the center of the pool at HBO's event. No wonder a man in a scuba suit was in the pool a day earlier. We skipped the party of The Weinstein Co. since our Manila deadline was getting near.

When we checked out of our suite the following morning, the pool was clear and sparkling in the sun, as if nothing had happened. There was not a trace of the partial wooden floor nor of the blazing fire ring.

By afternoon, I was sweeping our dogs' poo in the backyard. That is our Hollywood life—one moment **Pamela Anderson** is bent over in front of us; the next, we are clearing pet manure.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

JANET SUSAN R. NEPALES

KATE Beckinsale and husband Len Wiseman

JAMIE Foxx, big tipper
AFP

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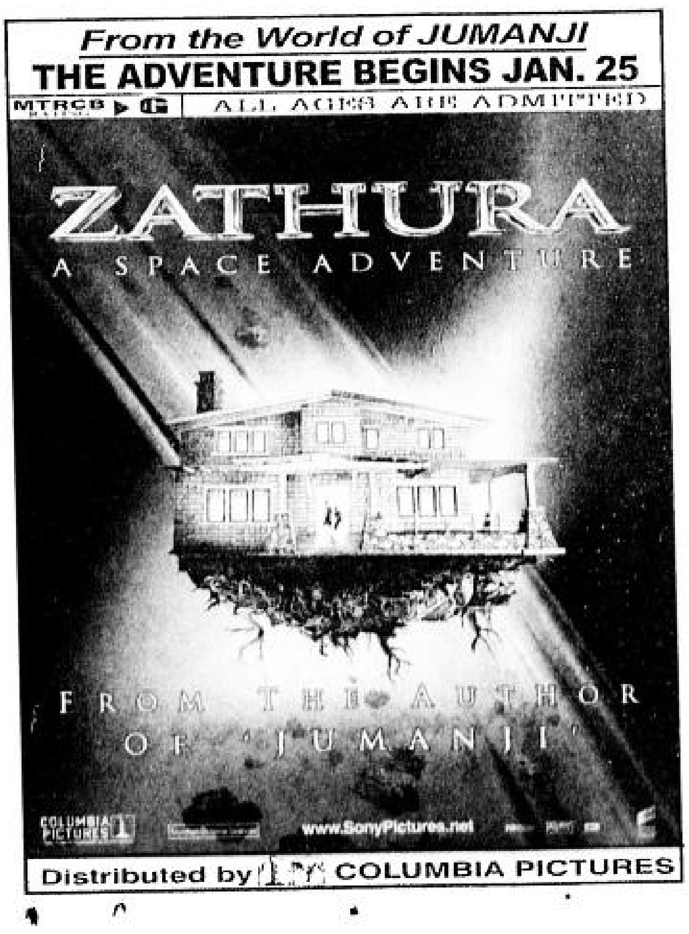
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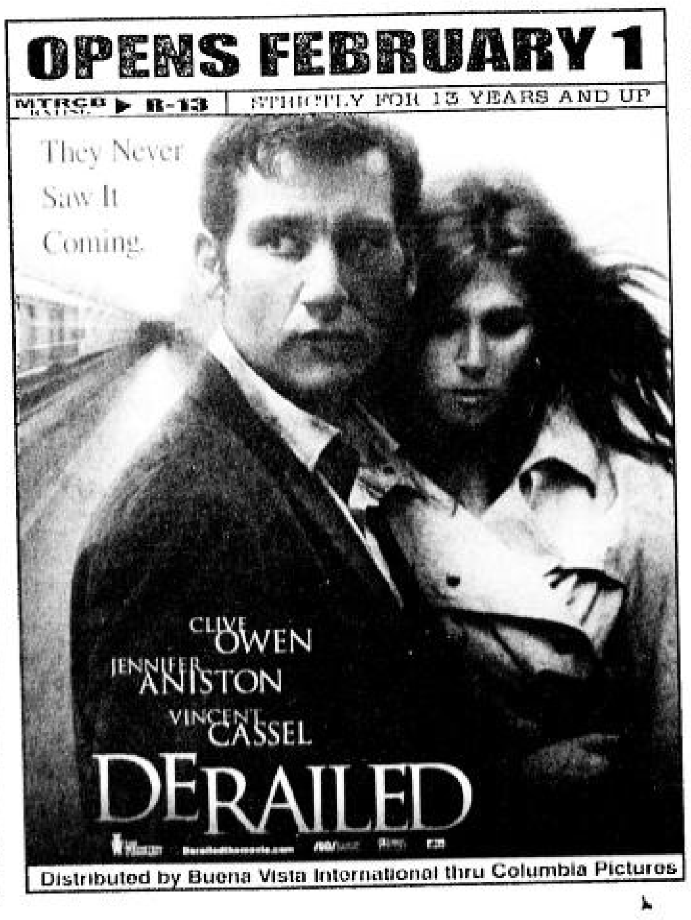
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2 UNDERWORLD 2
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 The Chronicles of NARNIA
1.20 4:10 7.00 9:50

4 JARHEAD
12 00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
12 10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

6 LITTLE MANHATTAN
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

7 KING KONG
2:30 6:00 9:30

8 RUMOR HAS IT
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

9 THE FAMILY STONE
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

10 BLUE MOON 12:20 2:45
AKO LEGAL WIFE 5:10 7:35 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 UNDERWORLD 2
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2 LITTLE MANHATTAN
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3 JARHEAD
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5 The Chronicles of NARNIA
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6 RUMOR HAS IT
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7 KING KONG 11:00 2:20
SAINT ANGE 6:10 8:00 9:50

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1 JARHEAD
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2 UNDERWORLD 2
11:05 1:35 4.05 6.35 9:05

3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
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4 RUMOR HAS IT
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7 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
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8 KING KONG
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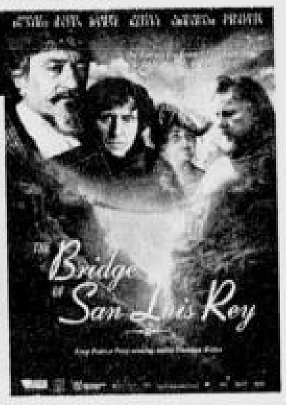
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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 RUMORS HAS IT	2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US	3 THX THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 1 30, 4 30, 7 10 10 10 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 JARHEAD	5 LITTLE MANHATTAN	6 UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION	7 THE FAMILY STONE
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	3 JARHEAD 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9 00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 LITTLE MANHATTAN 1:30, 3:30, 5 30, 7 30, 9 30, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 RUMOR HAS IT 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9 05, 11 20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
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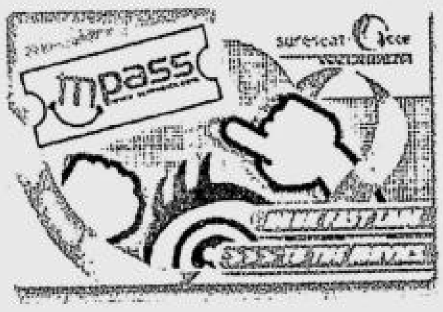

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STAR RECORDS

The multi-faceted Arnell Ignacio

By the INQUIRER Entertainment staff
Photos by Rudy Esperas

A CONVERSATION WITH ARNELL Ignacio is like channel-surfing.

That's because he wears many hats—television comedian and game show host, businessman, parent, civic worker. In short, it's not a mental condition. (Note: That second "l" was prescribed as a lucky charm by a numerologist who has since passed away.)

Arnell, the comedian and game show host, is on the verge of—no, not another surprise role in life—a big Kapuso comeback. His exclusive contract with ABS-CBN (where he moved to from GMA 7, where he moved to from ABS-CBN... copy?) expired in 2005. Starting next month, he is hosting a new game show titled "Now Na" on QTV 11, GMA 7's satellite channel.

The last time he left the Kapuso channel had resulted in a severance of ties with his longtime friend, Wilma Galvante, GMA 7 senior vice president for entertainment, Arnell admitted.

"But we're okay now," he told INQUIRER Entertainment in an interview at the PDI office in Makati City. "I've long wanted to talk with Ma'am Wilma, but I was afraid that she might think I was just sending feelers. Everything changed when I got a text message from her that said, 'Are you in town? Come to my office'."

He added: "I didn't think the message was for me, so I called her up to confirm. When we sat down for our first meeting after that, *nagka-ilangan kami*. [But] she's always good at breaking the ice. We cried, we hugged and talked about what happened in our lives. I used to be really close to her. I would run to her whenever I had problems."

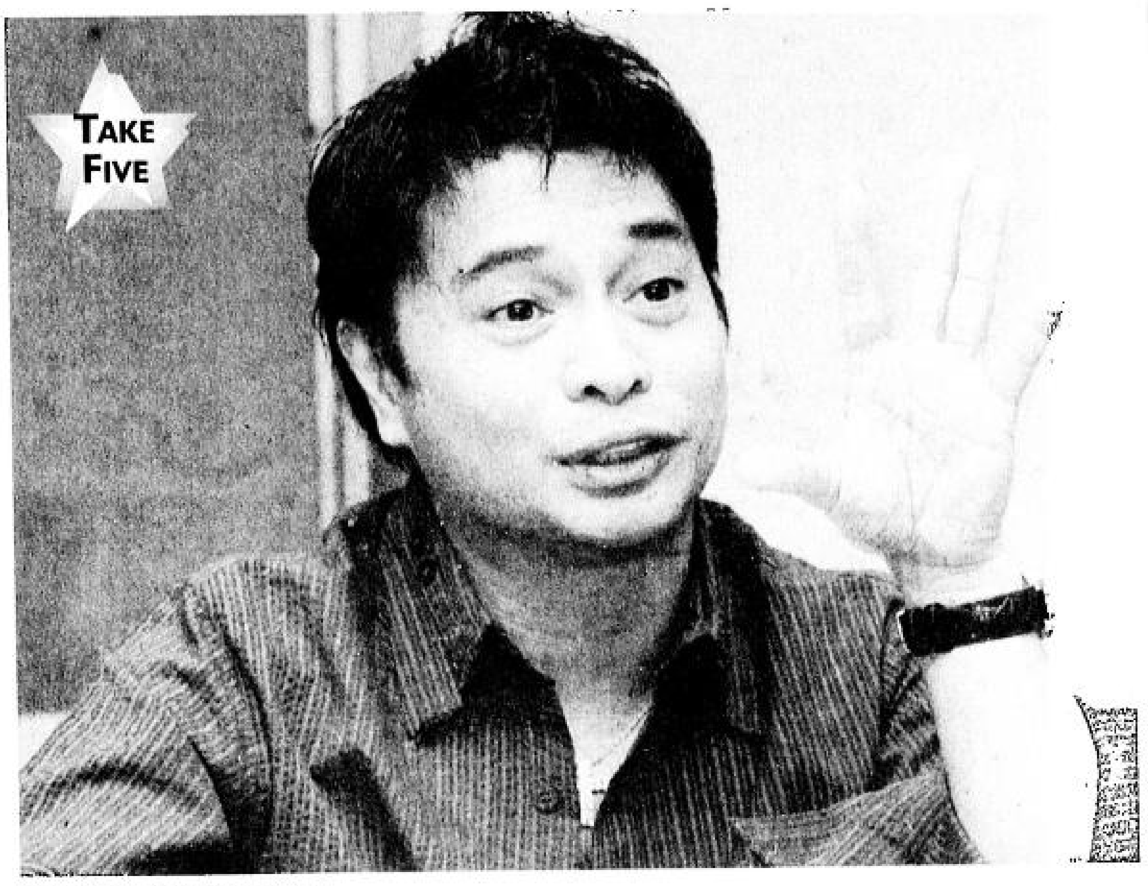
Arnell was the host of the 1990s top-rating game show "Go Bingo" on GMA 7. The hit TV program paved the way for many game shows on local television, such as the now-defunct "Go For It," (ABC 5) and "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" (IBC 13). Still airing on ABS-CBN is "Game Ka Na Ba," hosted by Kris Aquino.

Fans of "Go Bingo," Arnell believes, will appreciate his new show just as much.

"A game show under extreme time pressure" is how Gigi Santiago, assistant vice president for alternative productions, describes "Now Na."

It will have four contestants competing in three rounds—Short Time, Tiktaktiktak and Last Two Minutes. Easy questions are asked in Short Time. Before proceeding to the second round, the contestants will chose from among themselves who will be booted out of the game. Or, one of them may volunteer to leave—in which case, as a reward, he or she will take home the cash prize collected during the preceding round.

The same elimination process will apply after the second round.

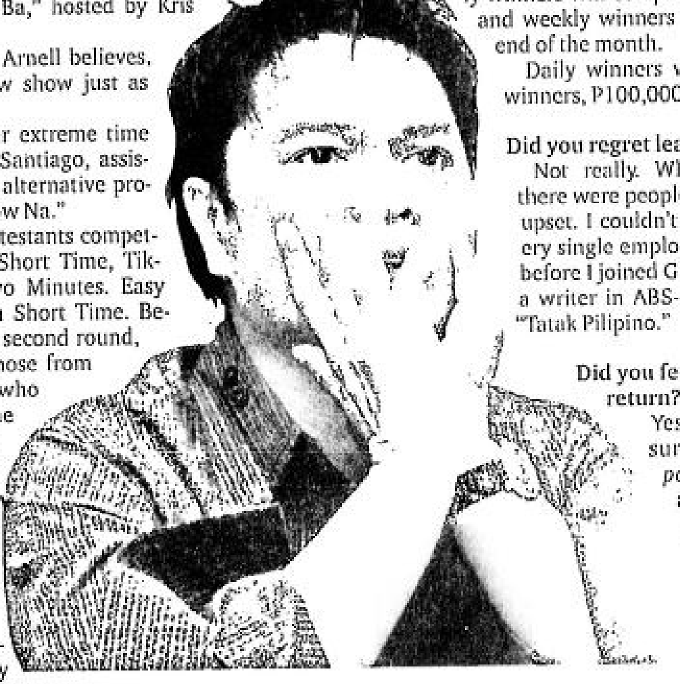


"I NEVER really try to be funny."

Comedian, show host, businessman, parent, civic worker – 'I'm just being me'

The two remaining contestants will compete in the third round. At the end of the week, daily winners will compete in the weekly finals, and weekly winners will slug it out at the end of the month.

Daily winners win P50,000; monthly winners, P100,000."



THROUGH with love: "Enough."

Did you regret leaving GMA 7?

Not really. What was painful was, there were people close to me who were upset. I couldn't explain my side to every single employee of GMA 7. You see, before I joined GMA 7, I used to work as a writer in ABS-CBN, in a show called "Tatak Pilipino."

Did you feel welcome upon your return?

Yes. That was a pleasant surprise. *Iniisip ko iirapan ako ng mga tao* for a while, or *'yung mga guardiya hihingan ako ng ID. Dati kasi nung nasa* ABS-CBN na ako, *hindi ako pinapasok* when I went to GMA 7 to solicit medicines from the Kapuso Foundation.

Didn't you feel just a little ill-at-ease?

Not really. *Para lang akong umuwi ulit.* When I came back I realized, *ang laki na pala ng bahay. Ngayon ang dami nang tao. Lumaki na ang bahay at gumanda.*

How are you with your wife, Frannie?

I've not seen her lately. Both of us are busy nowadays. Once in a while she visits our daughter, Sophia, who is now 9, [and] they go out.

How is you daughter coping with the separation? How do you explain to her your role as father and mother?

She's mature for her age. *Dalaga na.* She locks her bedroom door *na nga*. When I offer to do something for her, she sometimes tells me, "No, Papa. I can handle this." I get depressed when that happens. *Parang hindi na ako kailangan.*

In fact, Sophia takes care of the dates of her mom's visits. The only time we had a really dramatic confrontation was when I asked her whether she wanted to stay at my place or her mom's. She cried. She said, "I want both of you." I told her, "Your mom and I did the best we could. We just have to make the best of what we have right now."

Sophia is doing well in school. She's seriously into ice skating. She has even won a gold medal. I'm really proud of her. It hurts me sometimes whenever I feel it's her mom who should be with her instead of me.

Given a chance to write a book about homosexual parents, I would. Over and above all, the key element is love. *Mahalin mo lang ang anak mo.* We are always assuming that we need to explain to our kids what's happening to us. We don't always need to do that. If a child feels loved, she wouldn't care about these complications.

"COMEDIANS are expected to be happy all the time. Well, guess what...?"

What's the best compliment your daughter has given you?

Nothing expressed in words. It's when I see that she is genuinely happy because I'm home. People say *nakakawala ng pagod ang mga anak*. That is very true.

What is Arnell Ignacio like when he's in love?

Retired *na ako* sa love. *Tama na.* I have grown tired of falling in love. I used to get really obsessed. I forget everything else. I even fell in love once with a tomboy. I didn't care if she didn't like me. I also got beaten up before because I stalked a guy.

Why do have to go into business (he owns Creative Hair System, Arnelli's Pizza and a franchise of Beard Papa, a pastry chain) when you're a hot show biz property?

I guess business is really my thing. I'm also involved in social work. We recently solicited funds for the construction of a bridge in a place called Damayang Lahi. You wouldn't believe there are still places like that in Quezon City. People think I want to run for public office. No—I'm just being me.

Why are you a comedian when your life is filled with drama?

If you listen closely, you'll realize *na hindi naman talaga ako nagpapatawa*. Comedians are some of the most serious people you'll meet. We're expected to be happy all the time. Well, guess what, at the end of the day, comedians are also looking for people who could make them laugh. There aren't many people like that.

But my image as a comedian helps [in my civic work]. For example, when my group first started talking with people about family planning, we noticed that *kapag seryoso ang atake hindi nila papansinin*. That's why I made it a little humorous. I called our project, "Tigil Putukan."

As for making my life colorful, I do that by staying busy. And of course there's my daughter.

HOT 'HERCULES'

Tonight at 9, "Hercules"—yet another retelling of the story of the mythical half-man, half-god pre-biblical hero—premieres on the Hallmark Channel. The two-part (four-hour) series directed by Roger Young was shot on location in New Zealand and used a total of 23 especially built sets that recreated ancient Greece. Filming also involved the creation of computer-generated images for the extensive visual effects to depict demons and monsters and Hercules' feats.

The Way You Look Tonight
When I Fall In Love
Our Winter Love
I Will Love You
Unchained Melody
Graduation Day
No Other Love
You'll Never Walk Alone
The Wonder of You
Young Love
Love Is A Many Splendored Thing
Time To Cry
Walk On By
She Cried
It's All In The Game
Seventh Dawn
Softly As I leave You
I Believe
Venus
Portrait Of My Love
If Ever I Would Leave You
You've Lost That Loving Feeling
Sealed With A Kiss
Red Roses For A Blue Lady
The Things We Did Last Summer
Turn Turn Turn
I Only Have Eyes For You
Moon River
Witchita Lineman
More
The Impossible Dream
Up Up & Way
Going Out Of My Head
The Look Of Love
Never My Love
Warm
Put Your Head On My Shoulder
Traces / Memories
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2 classy picks: CPR and Webbe

SPIN CITY

FOR A WEEK STRAIGHT, WE'VE BEEN PLAYing only two CDs interchangeably, and we're not about to let up.

We're at least four months late—these albums were released late last year—but it would be a sin to let the beauties go by without notice.

(They assure us—in an over-extended season of best-of and tribute projects—that all the best songs have not been written, that here is much to look forward to.)

"CPR" by CPR

Simon Webbe (formerly of Blue) has held us hostage with "Sanctuary," which he describes as "urban folk... because of the drum patterns." He also says, of course, that the 12 songs in the collection tell the story of his life.

Even without knowing what that life must have been, Webbe basically has us where he wants us—alternately curious, piqued, seduced, soothed, invigorated, and lulled into reminiscences.

Musically and lyrically, "Sanctuary" is a compelling album. It's difficult to pick a "best" track. But check out "After All This Time" and "Time of Your Life."

Webbe says: "I would love this album to be very successful ... what I want to [do] is a world tour... that's my main aim."

Until he finds his way to Manila, we stay in his "Sanctuary."

SIMON Webbe, "Sanctuary"

Startling

Listening to "CPR" by CPR—David Crosby, Jeff Pevar and James Raymond—recalls Duke Ellington's simple definition of musical quality: "If it sounds good, it is good."

The illustrious trio has jazz, rock and folk roots. Crosby brings in almost four decades of experience as a folk artist as well as a founding member of The Byrds and Crosby, Stills Nash and Young. Raymond and Pevar have played with legends as Ray Charles, James Taylor, Rickie Lee Jones, Joe Cocker among others.

CHRISTOPHER de Leon, "Awit Pelikula"

Together, they weave gentle harmonies described as "gold and silver threads running through the fabric of their music."

And the lyrics? Sheer poetry.

From "One for Every Moment": "She would run across the barren land/And pause to let the light caress her/ Ask the earth to share its secrets/ And listen for the wind to tell her.

"She would walk to where the land and sea/ Met each other in a dance of violence/ She found a treasure of untold beauty/ Tossed it back and swore herself to silence."

There are 10 endearing tracks.

'Awit Pelikula'

Speaking of compilations: "Mga Awit Pelikula ni Christopher de Leon" from Viva Records, will be launched on Feb. 5.

De Leon, an award-winning actor, has always been the reluctant recording artist. His occasional performances as a singer—on television and concert guestings—have, for years, left fans wondering when he will make the crossover.

Well, now he has, 30 years after setting foot in the entertainment business, singing theme songs written for movies that he had starred in. Among these are: "Bituing Walang Ningning," "Sana'y Maghintay And Walang Hanggan," "You are My Song," "Iduyan Mo," and "Umaga Na Naman."

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BEARWIN MEILY TUESDAY VARGAS
RICHARD GUTIERREZ
ANGEL LOCSIN
I Will Always

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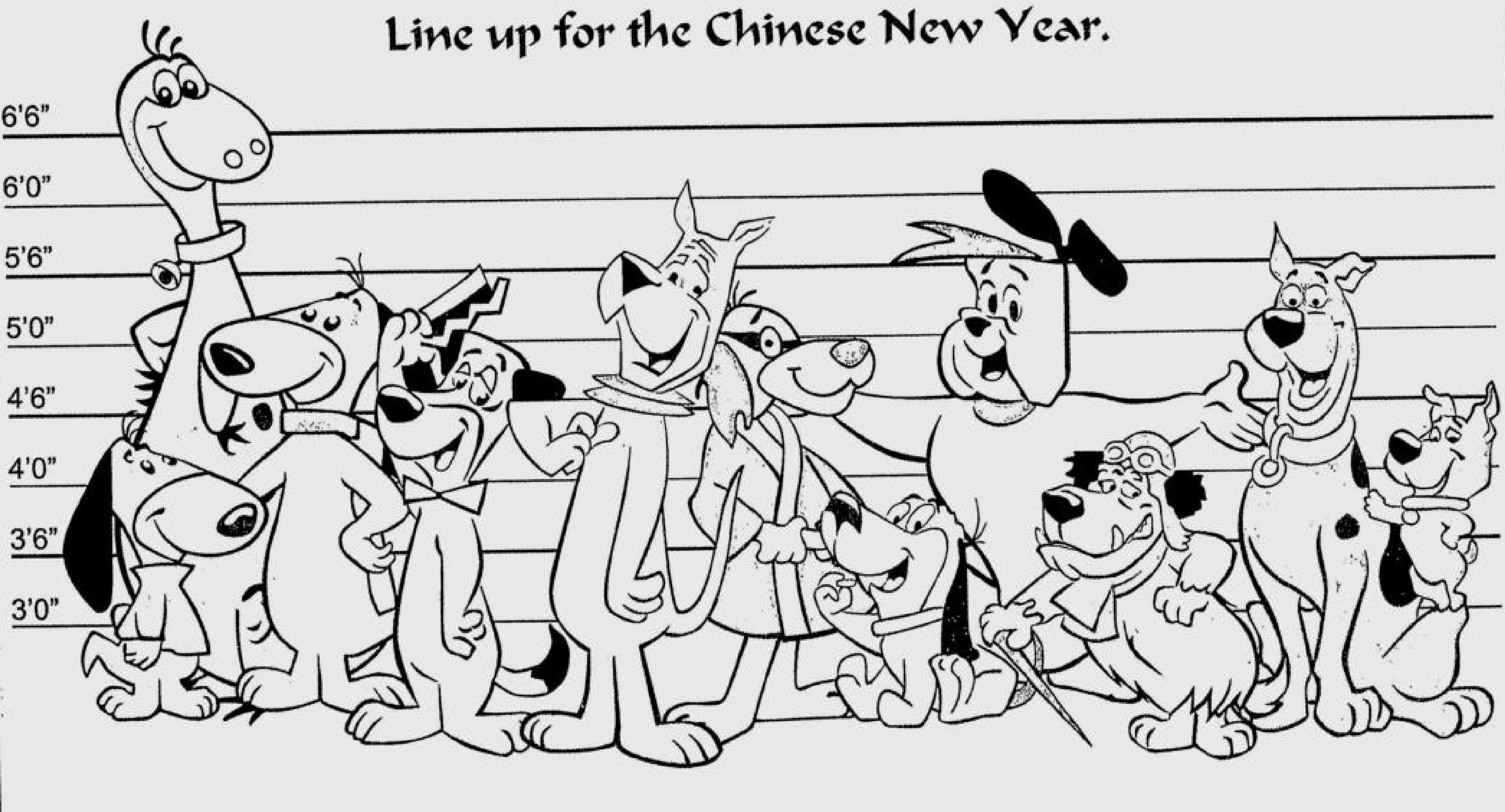

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Sunday BIZ

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Mo' Manny. Mo' money

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By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THIS IS THE mantra of Philippine media and corporate giants that have paid top money to ride on the highly anticipated battle between Filipino boxing sensation Manny Pacquiao and Mexican Erik Morales to boost their stock not only in the local market but also among cash-rich Filipinos working overseas.

Like Mike Tyson in his prime, the Pacquiao-Morales rematch is anticipated to deliver a knockout rating of between 40 percent and 50 percent which industry executives say is unprecedented for a sporting event involving a Filipino athlete.

Cashing in on the Filipinos' overflowing passion for their hometown boy are Solar Entertainment Corp., owned by William Tieng; ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. and major sponsors—Talk N' Text-Smart Communications Inc., Tanduay Distillers-Asia Brewery, and United Laboratories' Alaxan and Revicon I-On energy drink) that are touted to end up as winners whether Pacquiao wins or lose.

Solar Entertainment, which has the rights to the boxing match from Bob Arum's Top Rank Inc., reportedly paid a cool P5 million to ABS-CBN for a block time contract that would allow them to air the Pacquiao bout today on Channel 2 and simultaneously on its cable channel Solar Sports.

By shifting from RPN 9 (which has shown the blockbuster Pacquiao bouts previously), Solar Entertainment would boost its coverage by 10 percent with ABS-CBN's network facilities and charge at least 30 percent premium over what it would have charged had it aired on the state-run TV station.

Jude Turcuato, Solar Entertainment Corp. vice president for marketing, says his firm agreed to ABS-CBN's offer of a block time deal because it would not only allow more Filipinos to watch but it would also boost their image as one of the leading sports entertainment provider in the country.

Based on its rate card, Solar Sports charged P4.3 million for a major sponsorship package (the product mentioned after "Brought to you by..."), P2.75 million for a minor sponsorship package ("And in part by...."), and P1 million for participation. Tur-

MO' MANNY/ B2

What does Pacman do with his money?

By Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS—MANNY PACquiao is still very busy fighting for the country, his people, his dear President and, of course, his family and his bank book.

But, although he has sunk good cash in real estate, nothing has been heard of the boxing superstar having made any serious investment yet.

So how much must be Pacquiao's weight in dollars by this time, considering he has pocketed a total of $2 million for his monumental rematch with Mexican Erik Morales.

Hard to say, explains Jinkee Pacquiao, lovely wife of the country's biggest, richest national sports treasure.

"In the first place, Manny, contrary to popular suspicion, is not

WHAT/ B2

Manny Pacquiao bought a Porsche Cayenne. This S model goes for about $57,000 (over P3 million).

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Is Pacquiao going to be RP's version of Jordan?

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

FILIPINOS ARE STAR-STRUCK AND personalities are always good channels to tap when selling a product.

But while actors and actresses can command millions of pesos in fees when they lend their faces to a product, no Filipino athlete with a "star quality" has emerged who can command the same rates as Sharon Cuneta or Aga Muhlach.

These two are the most expensive celebrity endorsers in the country, charging rates ranging between P5 million and P25 million.

"Brands stand for something in the minds of consumers. And when you get an endorser you get someone who represents the set of meanings of your brand," explains Micky Domingo, executive creative director of McCann Erickson Phils., one of the country's largest ad agency.

It is in the choice of the endorser vis-a-vis the values a brand espouses that determine the effectivity of the move.

"If the brand character and his (endorser) own personality match, they're a perfect fit. The key is authenticity."

DOMINGO

When he says authenticity, he means the endorser promoting the product must be believable and credible.

But Micky cites exceptions. TV host Kris Aquino for example, swears by designer bags and outfits yet local bag makers targeting the lower income groups, get her as endorser. And she appears effective.

At the same time, Micky says the Filipinos are forgiving. Thus there were no pullouts of endorsers even when Kris admitted on television she contracted a sexually transmitted disease.

Unlike in the US when the slightest scandal affecting an endorser prompts the advertiser to immediately pull the plug.

When it comes to sports, Micky points out athletes still seem limited at present to endorsing "performance-based products."

And the going rate for athletes—about P700,000 to P1 million—remains a far cry from the celebrity endorsers' rates.

Take boxer Manny Pacquiao's endorsements. He endorses Darlington socks; "No Fear" apparel; Alaxan, Revicon I-ON, Dolly Tuna and Sardines. He has a boxing reality show in TV called "Kamao;" and has recorded a song called "Para sa 'yo."

"It's a bit tricky with athletes. They usually endorse performance products as if to suggest that they perform better," Micky says.

He points out also that athletes, unlike celebrities, are sometimes popular only over a certain period—when there is a major event they are competing in or just after this major event. Therefore from an advertiser's point of view, effectivity of athletes as endorsers may still be limited.

"For sure, we have no Michael Jordan with his good boy, charismatic looks. People like to emulate him," states Micky.

Sports money facts and figures

(Compiled by PDI Research)

Highest paid athletes based on Forbes 2005 Top 100 Celebrities

1. Tiger Woods (golf) = $87 million
2. Michael Schumacher (car racing) = $60 million
3. Oscar de La Hoya (boxing)= $38 million

Thrilla in Manila

The epic battle between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier was held in Araneta Coliseum before a sellout crowd of 33,000 people.

Over a billion others watched worldwide. Ali was guaranteed $4 million but got $6 million because of higher-than-expected revenues generated at $21.9 million. Frazier got $3 million.

Largest aerobics class

On Feb. 16, 2003, the Guinness Book of World Records recognized the mass exercise at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila as the world's biggest gathering for an aerobics class. There were 48,188 participants in Manila. Simultaneous aerobics demonstrations were also held in Davao, gathering 10,500 participants, and in Cebu, with 23,000 people.

Biggest sports flop?

The Metropolitan Basketball Association was touted as a major challenge to the Philippine Basketball Association, and opened with much fanfare on March 7, 1998 at the Narciso Ramos Sports Complex gym in Lingayen, Pangasinan.

MBA pitted 12 provincial basketball teams against each other in games that were telecast by ABS-CBN's UHF channel, Studio 23, and its Sarimanok News Network.

Even then President Fidel Ramos predicted that the MBA—headed by one of Philippine basketball's best players, Ramon Fernandez—would be a grand success.

After only just four years, MBA folded up. The association was plagued with money problems, resignations of key personalities like Fernandez, and the withdrawal of financial support by ABS-CBN. In July 2002, the MBA called off its remaining games and claimed the association would undergo a "re-tooling" and would "spring-back" soon.

It never did. In late 2000, reported losses of sponsors amounted to P100 million in one season alone. After MBA called off its games in 2002, the National Broadcasting Network said MBA owed it P5.6 million for the telecast of games.

Mo' Manny, Mo' money

From page B1

cuato says the package includes both the live broadcast and replay of the match including the undercard match.

"We have a 100-percent load," crows Turcuato who says they had to turn down a number of companies who lined up to get into the program.

Peter Musngi, head of ABS-CBN's sports division and Manila radio, says although the network rarely makes a block time contract, it decided to strike a deal with Solar Entertainment because it felt the Pacquiao match would be a nice follow-through punch after its popular Pinoy Big Brother show late last year.

"It's more than the revenues or ratings. The fact the Pacquiao match is being talked about by Filipinos everywhere makes it the deal worth taking," says Musngi. ABS-CBN is betting that the Pacquiao match, plus its Pinoy Big Brother, would enable it to regain the top spot it lost to bitter rival GMA Network in 2004.

Although all ad revenues from the match go to Solar Entertainment, ABS-CBN has been profiting nicely from the ratings surge in a number of its station-produced shows that have hyped the Pacquiao fever. "It's a win-win situation for all," Musngi says.

The advertising load is crammed mostly in the break between rounds—4 minutes of commercials are run after the end of each 3-minute round. (Boxers take a one minute rest each round). Which explains why a 12-round match stretches for more than an hour and a half on free TV. Turcuato says that part of the block time deal was for ABS-CBN to get 30 seconds of the 4-minute commercial gap.

Since Pacquiao has rabid fans among the A-B class who are willing to fork out money to see an uninterrupted broadcast of the fight, Solar and ABS-CBN have provided viewers with an option to watch at 41 cinemas at SM shopping malls (Megamall, North Edsa, Manila, Fairview, South Mall and Cebu) and Rockwell Power Plant Mall (tickets range from P300 to P500) and on pay-per-view on Dream Broadcast. Turcuato says the 40,000 tickets have been sold out as of Thursday.

Aside from the local market, ABS-CBN is targeting the overseas market, specifically Filipinos in the Middle East and Europe, where the fight will be shown on its overseas cable channel. "The response has been overwhelming especially in the Middle East where it is being offered as a pay-per-view option," Musngi says.

With the Pacquiao match an eagerly awaited event not only in the Philippines but also in the world, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. has aggressively pushed to put its products as major sponsors of the match with Smart Padala and Talk N' Text strategically placed on the neutral corners of the boxing ring and on the electronic time clock.

"We're targeting overseas Filipinos with the Smart Padala and their families here with Talk N' Text," says PLDT spokesperson Ramon Isberto.

With experts predicting that easily half of the television sets in the Philippines would be tuned in to the Pacquiao match this morning, the Lucio Tan group had jumped on the opportunity to participate in the Pacquiao match by peddling its alcohol drinks (Tanduay Distillers Inc.) and beer (Asia Brewery).

"It's as close as to what we will have as the country's version of the Super Bowl," says Wilson Young, president of Tanduay Distillers Inc., in reference to the annual championship of the National Football League which is used by American corporations to launch their latest products and fresh advertising campaigns.

THE PACMAN

For these media and corporate giants, Pacquiao is that rare breed of Filipino athlete whose popularity transcends his core base of supporters.

"Pacquiao is our generation's Flash Elorde because of his charisma and fire that cuts across all sectors of society," says Musngi.

"Pacquiao has captured the hearts and mind of Filipinos because of his fearlessness, hard work and determination," says Isberto who noted that win or lose, Pacquiao would continue to be close to the hearts of Filipinos. "It's how he fights in the ring and we all know he gives it his all every time."

"We believe that it's the boxing match of the decade and we're just happy to be a part of this event," says Young. "We will not hesitate to take him (Pacquiao) as our chief endorser if that opportunity comes."

Pacquiao used to be an endorser of Ginebra San Miguel, the gin-making subsidiary of San Miguel Corp. which is noticeably absent from the Pacquiao match. A source says San Miguel's advertising budget for sports has been tied to the Philippine Basketball Association.

Young says the Philippines has been thirsting for a hero, a modern day gladiator, and Pacquiao was the one who slaked this thirst.

But while Pacquiao might be able to boost the fortunes of media outfits and corporations, his popularity has failed to rub on his number one patron, President Macapagal-Arroyo, who has remained as one of the most disliked President in history.

What does Pacman ...

From page B1

getting $2 million for this fight alone," she explains. "First, there's the big tax cut—over 30 percent of the total purse goes to the IRS, then there's his manager waiting for his share, 30 to 40 percent."

Then there is the trainer, 10 percent, the assistant trainer, the conditioning coach, the driver, the close-in aide, assorted hangers-on, countless other people.

So how much can they expect out of the $2 million loot, thought to be the biggest by any Filipino boxer?

At most, explains the lady of the house, it should be only 40 percent of the purse, or some $800,000 (over P42 million).

Still, that's a lot of pesos, enough to last anybody a couple of lifetimes?

"Yes, maybe a couple of lifetimes, but there are a lot of other things Manny spends for," Jinkee clarifies from the sidelines during the fight presscon at the Wynn Las Vegas Mouton Ballroom.

In fact, Manny Pacquiao had himself confided to the INQUIRER that, for the second fight against Morales, he has had to shell out over $40,000 to buy tickets for friends, assorted acquaintances and politicians.

The $40,000, to be slashed from his purse, was threatening to go past $45,000 as the fight drew near.

We asked Jinkee how true is it that she keeps all the earnings from Manny's fight, the purse, while the boxer gets a free rein on what he gets from big product endorsements?

"Not true, no," Jinkee clarifies. "Actually, we divide the total earnings, most of which go to the bank, where our three kids, also have their own accounts."

"In my case, I have put up a convenience store, the Pacman Convenience Store, in GenSan. I also plan to put up a restaurant, soon."

But, again, how do husband and wife divide the earnings between them?

"Simple. If he earns, say, P50,000, I get the P30,000 while he gets to keep P20,000."

Why not an even split?

"Because there's an entire household to keep, the kids to provide a secure future for."

What about Manny?

"He spends for a lot of other things."

These other things include a condo unit in Davao, house in GenSan, a house in Parañaque, a cockfight breeding farm in Sarangani Province, not to mention a fleet of cars, like an Expedition, a Honda CRV, Navigator, the latest, a gray Porsche that cost millions of pesos.

Truth is, it's never easy tracing where the Pacman sinks his money, the investments being as elusive as the fighter himself inside the boxing ring.

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PeopleSupport (Philippines), Inc., a leading BPO company, clarifies its earlier news release about the company's accreditation by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

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Clark Special Economic Zone, Pampanga

or you can send your applications thru e-mail at
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- Strong leadership skills

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2. Detailed Curriculum Vitae and authenticated supporting documents
3. Applicant's Proposed Vision, Mission, and Development Plan of the College within a four-year period
4. Neuro-psychiatric Examination Result accomplished by a competent physician
5. Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a government physician from a regional medical center
6. Clearance Certificates (original) from the following:
   a. Ombudsman or Sandiganbayan
   b. Civil Service Commission
   c. National Bureau of Investigation
7. Accomplished CSC Form 212, under oath

Important: Interested applicants must send the above-mentioned documentary requirements in seven (7) sets/copies on or before **February 28, 2006** to any of the following:

MR. CELSO C. RAYMUNDO
Board Secretary
Palompon Institute of Technology
Palompon, Leyte

Office of Commissioner **NONA S. RICAFORT**
Commission on Higher Education
DAP Bldg., Ortigas Center
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

DR. MARIA RITA CASTILLON-ORTIZ, Ed.D.
Officer-In-Charge/Chair of the Search Committee
Commission on Higher Education Region VIII
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(PDI-January 22, 29 & Feb 5, 2006)

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- Finance or Accounting graduate, computer literate
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Interested applicants are requested to come personally with their comprehensive resume with 2x2 picture and transcript of records every Monday, Wednesday & Friday between 9am to 5pm at
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Please secure your application forms from Luzon Reseller, Petron Corporation, Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila c/o Ms. Rosette P. Sanchez at tel. 563-8521 Loc. 282. Submit application forms not later than the deadline specified for each location.

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Female, Bachelor's degree in Commerce Major in Acctng./Buss. Admin Major in Acctng. with 1-2 years experience in general accounting, clerical works or Auditing. Must have a good academic records independent & can work in minimal supervision Newly graduate may apply.

AREA COORDINATOR

Graduate of any business related course, at least 1-3 year sales experience in the related field. Computer literate, good in negotiations, selling. People oriented. Willing to do field works in GMA area

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M/F 21-25 y/o. grad of any Buss. related course, good speaker, energetic and w/ pleasing personality. Preferably provincial resident of north luzon, visayas, or mindanao area

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NFA cites creditable performance in 2005

A SUSTAINED HIGHER palay farm price for farmers, affordable rice for ordinary consumers and an immediate supply of the staple for communities affected by calamities are among the marked accomplishments of the National Food Authority for the year 2005. The NFA cited its nationwide palay buying as a major factor that pushed up farm gate prices last year. The agency operated a total of 342 palay buying stations nationwide to support its operations especially for the main crop. NFA administrator Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr. said the agency's continuous presence in the market with a high support price and incentives prodded private traders to increase their buying prices in order to encourage farmers to sell to them their palay produce. Farm gate price of palay in Region VIII even reached as high as P11.36 per kg. Tan also credits NFA's foresight to import rice during the early part of the year as an important contributing factor in the stabilization of the rice supply and price. For more information on NFA programs, the public may send their inquiries via the Text NFA Program through mobile number 0917-6210927.

NEW SCIENCE high school inaugurated in Manila. A new science high school dubbed the Malayan High School of Science (MHSS) was recently inaugurated in Pandacan, Manila. With state-of-the-art facilities, a wi-fi campus, and a curriculum especially designed to immerse students in current and future developments in science and technology, this new learning institution is intended to become a center of excellence in helping the country develop globally competitive human resources. The Malayan High School of Science is now accepting student applicants for its school opening this June 2006. Shown in photo cutting the ribbon at the school entrance is Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco (left), chairman of the Mapua Board of Trustees, with (left to right) former Senate President Jovito Salonga, Hon. Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, and MHSS President Dr. Reynaldo Vea.

CIC's promise continues: Give better lives to more Filipinos

THE CANADIAN IMMIGRATION Consultancy (CIC), the country's most reputable consultancy firm has again stood the test of time, helping thousands of Filipinos to be admitted in Canada, a step towards a more fruitful life. From January to December 2005, CIC has deployed 563 professional Filipinos, including 995 spouses and dependents.

The 563 principal applicants are comprised mostly of financial managers, computer systems analysts, computer programmers, electrical and electronics engineering technologist and technicians, purchasing agents and officers, civil engineering technologist and technicians, mechanical engineering technologist and technicians, technical sales specialist, accountants, agricultural representative consultants and specialist, and social workers.

The top professions admitted also include dentists, medical technologists, and nurses. They will now hold their ticket to a truly rewarding life.

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CIC offers various packages of services under different schemes or programs to fit the clients' needs. The package includes 50 percent discount on standard consultancy fee, Apply Now Pay Later Package, and Easy Payment Plans. If availed, these schemes provide complete range of services where clients are carefully monitored and assisted from submission of application, correspondence with the Canadian Embassy, until their arrival in Canada. The service also includes enhancement of job description, document review, and proper encoding of application forms.

With the pass mark lowered to 67 points, from 75 points, single applicants and those without direct relatives in Canada may now qualify.

CIC, with satelite offices in Toronto, Vancouver and Taiwan, is represented by an immigration lawyer and member of the Canadian Law Society. CIC has offices nationwide located at Cebu, Davao, Baguio, Laoag, Naga City, Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo City and Dumaguete city. Our main office in the greater Manila area is located in Parañaque City. For more information and free assessment, visit www.go2canada.com.

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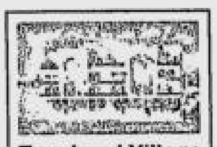

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice is given that estate of the late RAMON S. JUAREZ, SR. has been settled by his heirs through final extrajudicial settlement executed by Juanito Saavedra Notary Public of Manila under Doc #2279 Page #57 Book # VI dated Jan 6, 2005 Manila IBP 634246 Jan 7, 2005 Pasig.
PDI-January 15, 22 &29, 2006

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Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL NEGROS
Bids and Awards Committee
Capitol Area, Dumaguete City

INVITATION TO RE-BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Provincial Government of Oriental Negros invites all interested bidders to pre-qualify and submit sealed bids for the bidding of the following requirements:

Four (4) Units Reconditioned Japan Surplus Crawler Type BACKHOE (Hydraulic Excavator) 6 Cylinder Diesel as specified.

The list of pre-qualification requirements is now available at the BAC Secretariat, Provincial General Services Office (PGSO) Dumaguete City, with Tel/Fax# (035) 225-2433

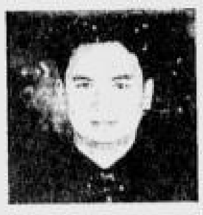
The Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on January 24, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the PGSO while the submission and opening of bids is scheduled on February 7, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. also at the same venue.

The Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose bid proposal as evaluated by the Committee is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ISMAEL P. MARTINEZ
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Provincial General Services Officer

(PDI-January 15 & 22, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



(LARRY G. MANANQUIL)

This is to inform the public that the person whose picture appears above is no longer connected with DWIGHTSTEEL BUILDING SYSTEM, INC.

Any transaction entered by him for and on behalf of DWIGHTSTEEL BUILDING SYSTEM, INC. shall not be acknowledged nor honored by the company.

(PDI-January 22, 2006)

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"God's Will Be Done"

I am home in heaven, dear ones. Oh, so happy and so bright!
I felt a hand and touched God, woke up in his glory...
I am now at peace forever, safely home in heaven at last!

First Anniversary to Eternal Life of

Engr. Francisco "Panching" Tan Gana y Miranda

of Biñan, Laguna
April 2, 1911 - January 22, 2005

His loving wife, **REMEDIOS "Meding" TAN GANA y ARCEGA** (†), children and grandchildren:

- **GREGORIO** Tan Gana
  - Gregorio Jr., Gayle Stacey, Ma. Victoria, Francine, Josemari Jeśu
- **Drs. ROSALIA** & Marcos Galicia, Jr.
  - Ma. Roselle & David Baltazar, Myra Elizabeth & Art Ferreri
- **EVELYN** & Saturnino K. Jimenez, Jr. (†)
  - Jonathan Gary & Patricia Geslani, Jose Gregorio, Jennifer Grace & Rusty Bayani
- **EDITHA** Tan Gana
  - Mylene & Alfredo Yap, Maria Editha, Marcelino & Lan Alzona, Melanie & Serafin Sausa, Joselito Alzona, Jr.
- **BELINDA** & Ramon A. Cariño
  - Ryan Bincent, Rosemary Binky, Roselynn Beth
- **VICENTE** (†) & Emelita Jaojoco
  - Vanessa, Vicente, Jr. & Socorro Margallo, Von Francisco, Valerie Czarina
- **MARCELINO** & Maria Luisa G. Villegas
  - Margery Lorraine, Marguerite Lerissa, Ma. Lianne, Mariz Lindsey, Mariette Lerine

brother Faustino (†), sisters Celedonia T.G. Ambas (†), Luisa T.G. Masangkay (†), Agatona T.G. Cuy (†), Catalina T.G. Roque (†), Pilar T.G. Molina and Alejandra T.G. Cerdeña, brothers and sister-in-law, great grandchildren, nephews and nieces cordially invite our other relatives and friends to join us in remembrance of our beloved and deeply missed " Tatay Panching " on his first anniversary to eternal life on January 22, 2006. He left with us a legacy of integrity, bravery, forthrightness and most importantly, love of God. The values and principles he instilled in us will remain the rudder that will steer us through our lifetime journey. "Tatay Panching", we love you very, very much and we will forever be proud of you.

Holy Masses will be offered at the following:

Family Mausoleum – Eternal Gardens San Antonio, Biñan, Laguna	6:00 PM
San Isidro Labrador Parish Poblacion, Biñan, Laguna	6:00 AM ; 5:00 PM ; 6:30 PM
San Vicente Ferrer Parish San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna	7:00 AM ; 8:30 AM ; 5:00 PM
San Antonio de Padua Parish – San Antonio, Biñan, Laguna	7:00 AM ; 6:00 PM
Nuestra Señora De la Paz – De la Paz, Biñan, Laguna	7:00 AM ; 6:00 PM
Blessed Sacrament Parish – South City Homes Biñan, Laguna	8:00 AM ; 6:00 PM
Miraculous Medal Parish Ireneville Subdivision, Biñan, Laguna	8:00 AM ; 6:00 PM
San Pedro Apostol Parish – Malaban, Biñan, Laguna	8:00 AM ; 6:00 PM
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Church – Pagsanjan, Laguna	8:15 AM
St. Jerome Emiliani and **Sta. Susana Parish** Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City	8:30 AM
Redemptionist Church – Baclaran, Pasay City	10:00 AM
St. Policarp Parish – Cabuyao, Laguna	3:30 PM
St. James the Great Parish Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City	4:30 PM
National Shrine of the Sacred Heart San Antonio Village, Makati City	5:00 PM
St. John Bosco Church and Center for Young Workers Laguna Technopark, Sta. Rosa City	5:00 PM
Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel – Casile, Biñan, Laguna	5:00 PM
San Francisco de Asis Church – San Francisco, Biñan, Laguna	6:00 PM
Sto. Sepulcro Parish – Landayan, San Pedro, Laguna	6:00 PM
Parish of the Risen Lord – Southville Subdivision, Biñan, Laguna	6:00 PM
Chair of St. Peter Parish – Balibago, Sta. Rosa City	7:30 PM
St. Philomena Church – Carson, California, U.S.A	9:00 AM
St. Joseph Parish Church – Cockeysville, Maryland, U.S.A	12:00 PM

We thank all our relatives and friends who shared their lives with "Tatay Panching" and who allowed him to share his life with them. We request you to continue praying for him as we know he continues to care and pray for each one of us.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate

❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

Message of Thanks

We, the loving husband **NEMESIO**; children **ALFRED & JEANNE KHU, JANET & JOHNNY CHUA, STEVEN & SANDRA SIM**; and grandchildren of the late

ROSITA LIM ANG

(October 6, 1919 - January 11, 2006)

wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude to all those who paid their last respect, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, patiently kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and in so many other ways helped and comforted us in the hour of our bereavement.

God bless us.

Our Beloved

"ATE"

Ana Gliceria Gatmaitan Dimalaluan

of Lipa City

has journeyed to His Loving Arms on January 17, 2006.

We, parents Arturo & Josefina Gatmaitan Dimalaluan; brothers & sisters Arturo, Jr. & Lailah, Anacelle & Brian Miceli, Lizette & Jun-Jun Liay, Anthony & Emily, Tessa & James Reyes, Ariel & Melissa; nephews & nieces Jasper, Jeremy, Geraldine, Stacy, Stephen, Chelsea, Brendan, Mariela request your loving prayers.

Her remains lie in state at the San Fernando Funeral Homes, Marawoy, Lipa City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, January 24, 2006 at Lipa City Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Lipa City Cathedral.

> *" I am the resurrection and the life.*
> *He who believes in Me, will live,*
> *even though he dies; and whoever*
> *believes in Me will never die."*
> *John 11: 25-26*

In Loving Memories

LUCIA "Nanay Lucing" INTON Vda. De VIACRUSIS

December 13, 1924 - January 22, 1999
*on her **Seventh Death Anniversary***

Her husband **Alfredo Sr.** (†); children **Cesar** and **Belen**, **Ding** and **Mirriam**, **Bot** and **Irish**, **Beng** and **Nanding** (†), **Jess** and **Rosie**, **Chie** (†) and **Tess**, **Boy** and **Erma**, **Viring** and **Ave**, **Bong** and **Lea**; grandchildren **Vic, Jun, Albert, Jean, Rachelle, Maydee, Paul, Randy, Eric, Hernan,Tek, Lorie, Jay R, Mutya, Anne, Leo, Francis, Andy, Beth, Lucia Rin, Christian, Matty, AJ, Alec, Janet, Olivia, Andrea Beatrice** and **Andrew Benedict**; and great grandchildren request other relatives and friends to remember her in their prayers.

The Holy Mass will be offered at the following churches today, January 22, 2006:

St. Joseph Parish Church, Olongapo City	6:00 AM
Columban Parish Church, Olongapo City	7:30 AM
Carmelite Monastery, Subic, Zambales	6:00 AM
Immaculate Conception Parish Church, Barreto, Olongapo City	8:00 AM
Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Dolores, SFP	8:00 AM
St. Jude Parish, City of San Fernando, Pampanga	8:30 AM
San Agustin Parish, City of San Fernando, Pampanga	8:45 AM
San Fernando Cathedral, City of San Fernando, Pampanga	8:45 AM
Olongapo Memorial Park, Olongapo City	2:00 PM

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

ALEX F. ONTONG

who passed away on January 10, 2006

wish to express our deepest gratitude to all of you who offered prayers and comforted us; kept vigil with us and in many immeasurable ways condoled with us in these most difficult times.

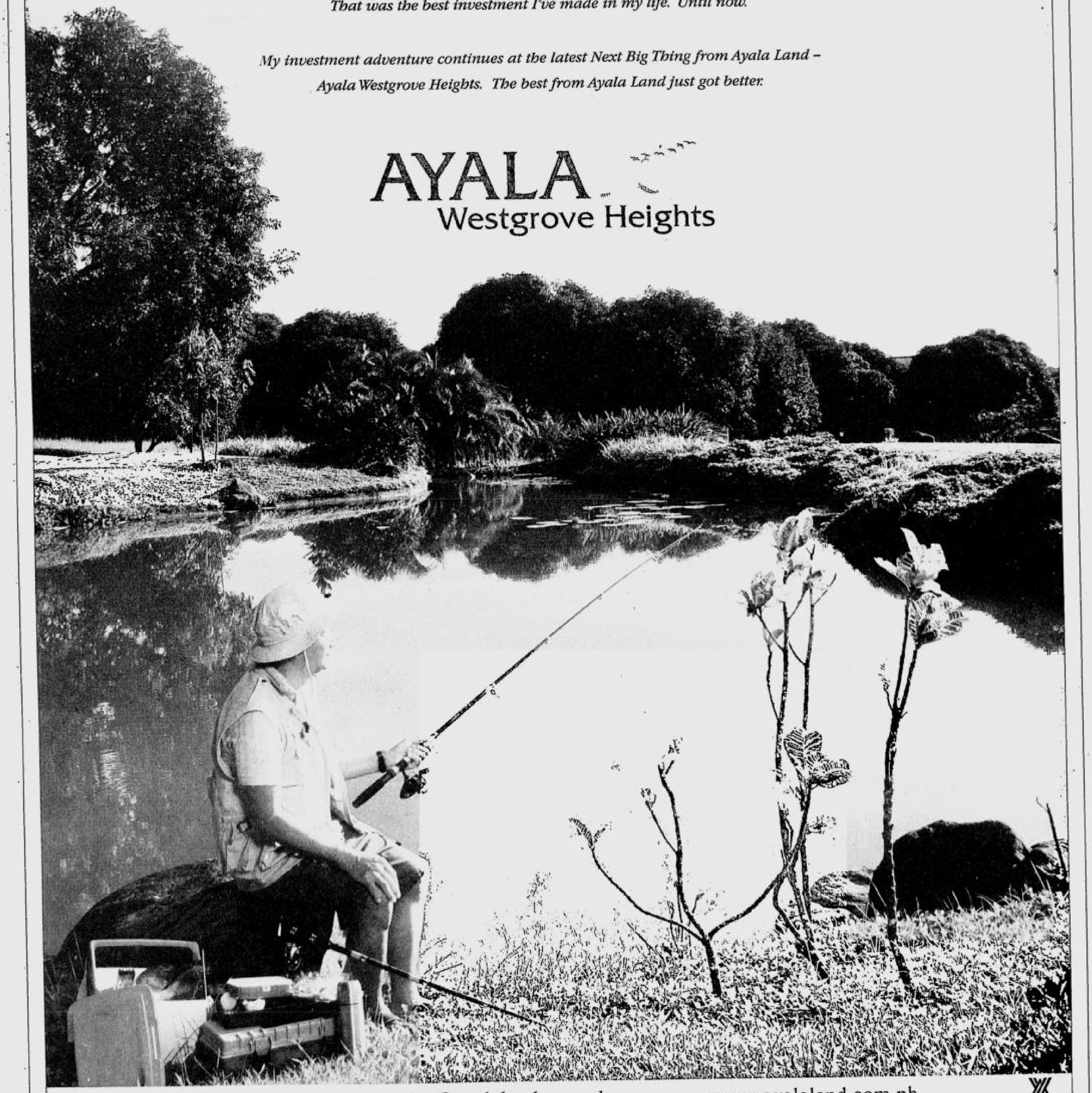
"When it comes to spotting The Next Big Thing, you can probably call me an expert."

Mr. Joselito Santos Ayala Westgrove Heights Resident

We were the first family to build a home at Ayala Alabang back in 1978. It took a lot of imagination and courage for us to see the potential in what you may call a very young village back then. But like many decisions I've made in my life, it's really just a matter of foresight and faith. Somehow I knew that Ayala Alabang was the Next Big Thing then. That was the best investment I've made in my life. Until now.

My investment adventure continues at the latest Next Big Thing from Ayala Land – Ayala Westgrove Heights. The best from Ayala Land just got better.

AYALA
Westgrove Heights



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Live life to the fullest in a place touted as "The Next Big Thing". Much like its well-received predecessor, Ayala Alabang, Ayala Westgrove Heights is an upscale neighborhood that follows a grand vision of an exclusive, sustainable and progressive community.

It is a unique residential environment where many conveniences and well-executed ideas meet. To achieve this vision, Ayala Land has developed establishments such as the Westgrove Plaza.

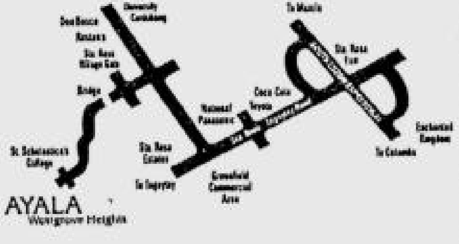
The Westgrove Plaza primarily serves the retail convenience and requirements of the residents. It consists of small shops like drugstores, bookstores, water stations, food outlets,

a flower shop and a video rental shop. It's a compact, intimate commercial space in a quaint, natural setting.

Ayala Westgrove Heights also boasts of an educational hub in its immediate vicinity.

Residents get easy access to quality education from a prestigious roster of schools like St. Scholastica's College-Westgrove (Donated by Ayala Land to the sisters of St. Scho), DLSU-Canlubang, Don Bosco and Brent International School.

With a community so dynamic, convenient and accessible, there's truly no other place to look for than the Next Big Thing–Ayala Westgrove Heights.



Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

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2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
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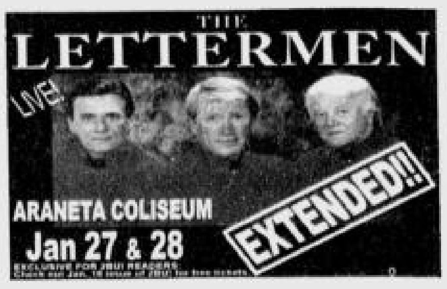
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**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ARANETA COLISEUM
Jan 27 & 28
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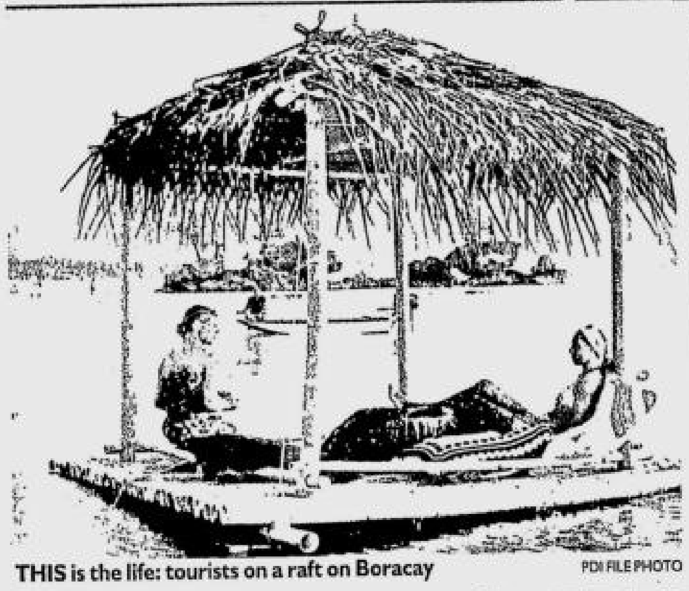
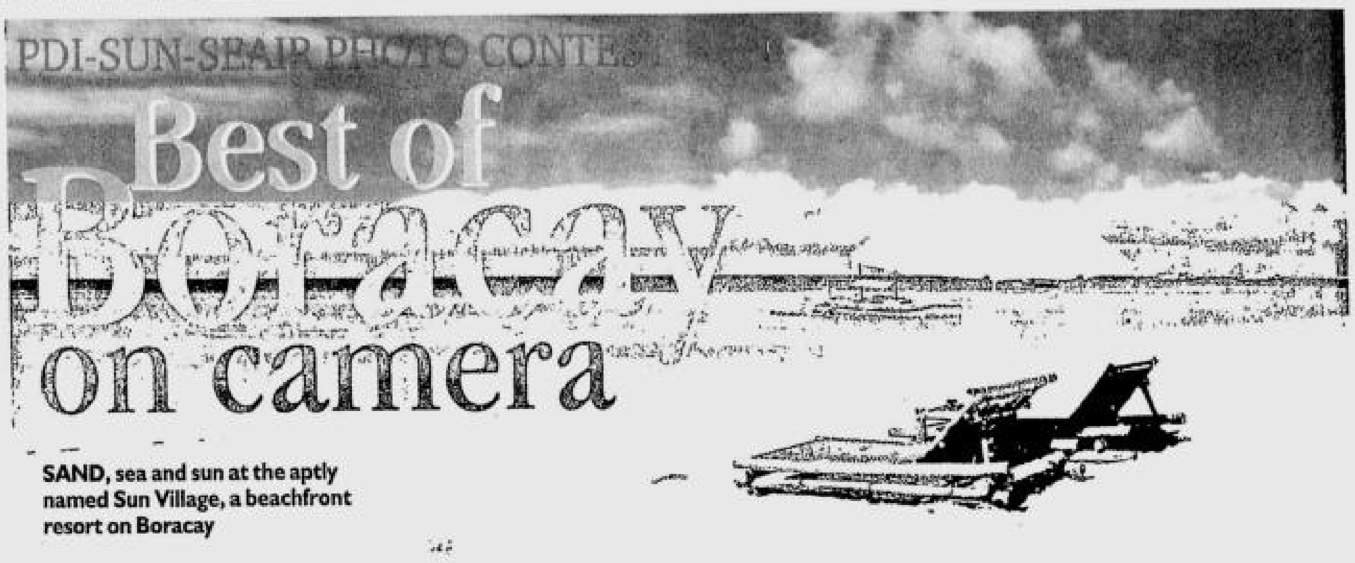

THIS is the life: tourists on a raft on Boracay

PDI FILE PHOTO

PDI-SUN-SEAIR PHOTO CONTEST

Best of Boracay on camera


SAND, sea and sun at the aptly named Sun Village, a beachfront resort on Boracay

DO YOU HAVE A PHOTOgraph that best captures a most enjoyable vacation experience on the island paradise of Boracay? Submit the photo to us and get a chance to win an all-paid trip for four back to Boracay courtesy of South East Asian Airline (Seair) and the Sun Village Resorts Boracay, in cooperation with INQUIRER Lifestyle.

The Best of Boracay Photo Contest is open to all photo enthusiasts who have personally visited Boracay. If your photo entry is in print, it must be 8" x 10" in size. Sorry, no prints will be returned. If in digital form, it must be in 200 resolution JPEG format and unaltered.

Submit the photo with a short caption describing the experience, where in Boracay and when the photo was taken, as well as the following information: your name, address, mobile phone number, landline phone number and e-mail address.

You may submit as many entries as you wish but you may win only once.

Send your entry to the Best of Boracay Photo Contest, Lifestyle c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Don Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, or e-mail to travelpromo@inquirer.com.ph

Entries must be received at the PDI office if hand-delivered or via e-mail by March 24, 2006. Mailed entries must be postmarked March 24, 2006.

Entries will be judged by a panel consisting of representatives from the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Sun Resorts, Inc., Fuentes Publicity Network, Inc., and professional photographers.

Criteria for judging are: 40 percent relevance, 30 percent overall impact and 30 percent quality and technique.

Weekly winners will be named in Sunday Lifestyle and will receive Nivea Sun Gift Packs. They will qualify as finalists for the top three prizes.

Winners must submit the negatives or CD files of their winning entries before claiming their prizes.

All winning entries will become properties of Philippine Daily Inquirer and Fuentes Publicity Network, Inc., which reserve the right to use the photos without any liability.

Prizes

The first prize winner gets round-trip tickets for four to Boracay courtesy of Seair; five days-four night stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Nivea Sun gift packs.

The second prize winner gets round-trip tickets to Boracay for two courtesy of Seair; four days-three nights stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Nivea Sun gift packs.

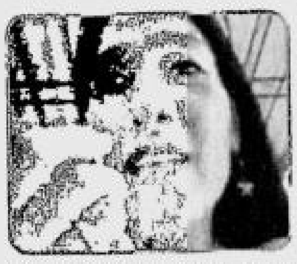
The third prize winner gets round trip tickets for two to Boracay courtesy of Seair; three days-two nights stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Nivea Sun gift packs.

Winners will be notified through phone and mail. Winning photos will be published in Sunday Lifestyle on April 9, 2006.

CHILDREN enjoy a swing attached to a coconut tree on Boracay beach. GUIJO DUENAS

It took 8 years before she could see her family

Options
Reject



In 1997, Delia Bautista left the country to work in Singapore and has not been able to return since. But last month, she was reunited with her sister, Lourdes, and her brother, Danny, through a video IDD call on Globe 3G.

"Nakita niya na bungi ako kaya magpapadala daw siya ng pera para mapaayos ko ang ipin ko,"

Lourdes recounts after their long overdue reunion. Delia was also able to see her niece Daisy, now 4 years old, for the first time.

With 3G, Globe not only continues to lead in pioneering digital mobile communications in the country, but also continues with their efforts to connect Filipinos both here and abroad.

3G's faster transmission speeds and higher bandwidth give users a whole range of mobile services: *video calls* that allow people to see and hear each other; *video sharing* in which two subscribers can view the same video in real time; *fast browsing* and even *faster downloads* for internet surfing and downloading at DSL speeds; and *video streaming* to catch the latest news or TV shows live.

And while Globe is ready to roll with a 3G license and its preferred 3G frequency, the innovation has not stopped. In the recently concluded 23rd South East Asian Games, media reporters and sports writers tried firsthand High Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA), the upcoming technology being developed with even bigger capacities.

From being first in the country to introduce GSM (2G), Globe continued to pioneer with its successive introductions of GPRS (2.5G) and EDGE (2.75G) soon after. Now, Globe leads again with 3G and continues in its vision of making great things possible.

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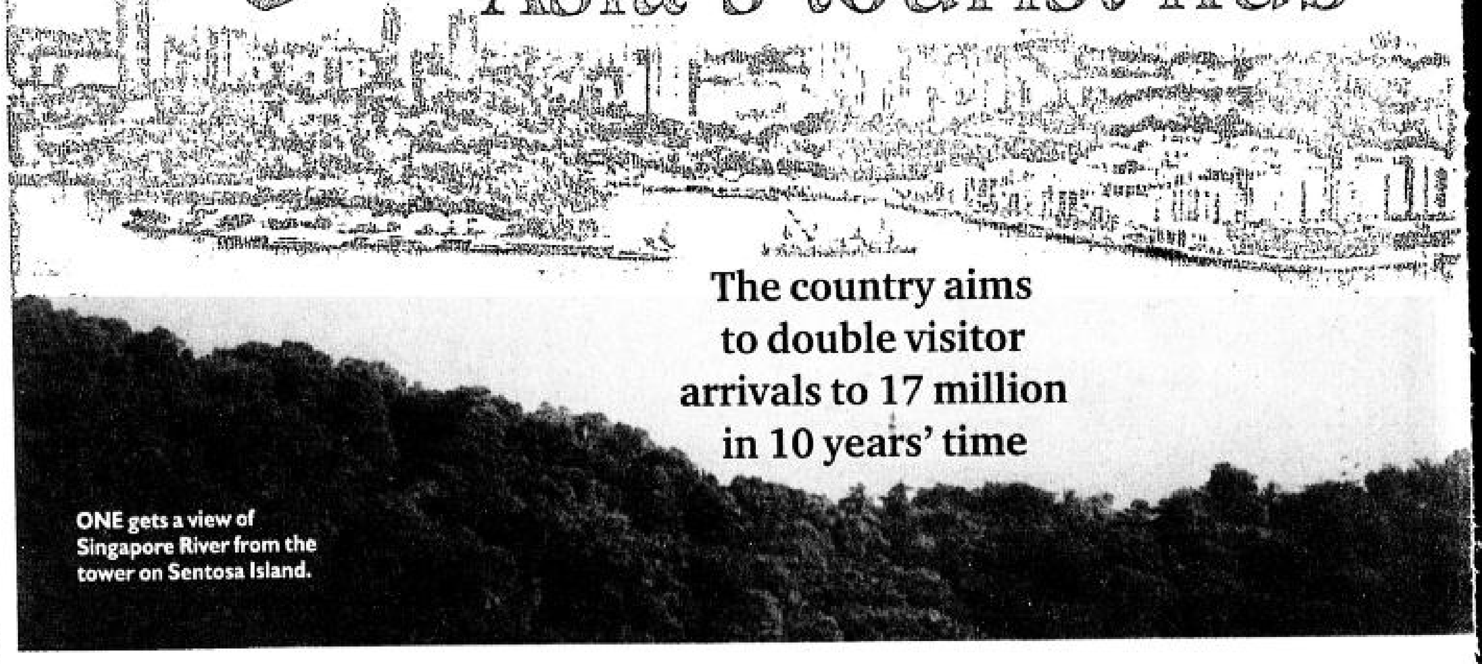
Singapore wants to be Asia's tourist hub



The country aims to double visitor arrivals to 17 million in 10 years' time

ONE gets a view of Singapore River from the tower on Sentosa Island.

FROM the 23rd floor of Meritus Mandarin Hotel at Orchard Road, one gets this view of the greenery amid the tall buildings in Singapore's commercial district.

Text and photos by Leti Boniol

DRIZZLES FELL INTERmittently in Singapore three days before this country of 4.2 million people celebrated its 40th founding anniversary. But the sun came out in the afternoon, and some 25,000 Singaporeans, mostly garbed in red, gathered at the Marina South for a two-hour program that ended with 15-minute fireworks watched by millions atop hotels and restaurants and TV sets.

SENTOSA luge

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in his Independence Day speech spelled out some of his administration's targets in the next five years, among them the continued "remaking" of the city-state so that it remains "vibrant, cosmopolitan, throbbing with energy and has its own distinctive 'X-factor,'" something that would make it stand out from other cities like London, Paris and New York.

This is the reason, Lee said, that his country is going into integrated resorts development. Underlying this is Singapore's target of doubling visitor arrivals to 17 million in 10 years' time, from 8.3 million visitors in 2004.

Various treats

The Asian Civilizations Museum at the Empress Place displayed over 140 objects from collections of the Vatican Museum and other Vatican institutions in an exhibition called "Journey of Faith."

Showcased were artifacts from the Roman catacombs associated with the early Christians, works of art by Raphael, Veronese and Guido Reni, as well as costumes worn by the Catholic popes.

Several programs were also lined up in the museum, among them a Roman Carnival that presented a slice of Rome, and a two-day workshop on the Italian artistic tradition called the fresco.

Did China sail the world in 1421? This debate that was started by the book "1421," written by retired submarine captain-turned investigator and best-selling author Gavin Menzies, was taken up anew in an exhibition that revealed new artifacts, maps and pieces of evidence that looked at history from an entirely different perspective.

Menzies claims Admiral Zheng He circled the globe long before the Portugeese Ferdinand Magellan and reached America 70 years before Christopher Columbus.

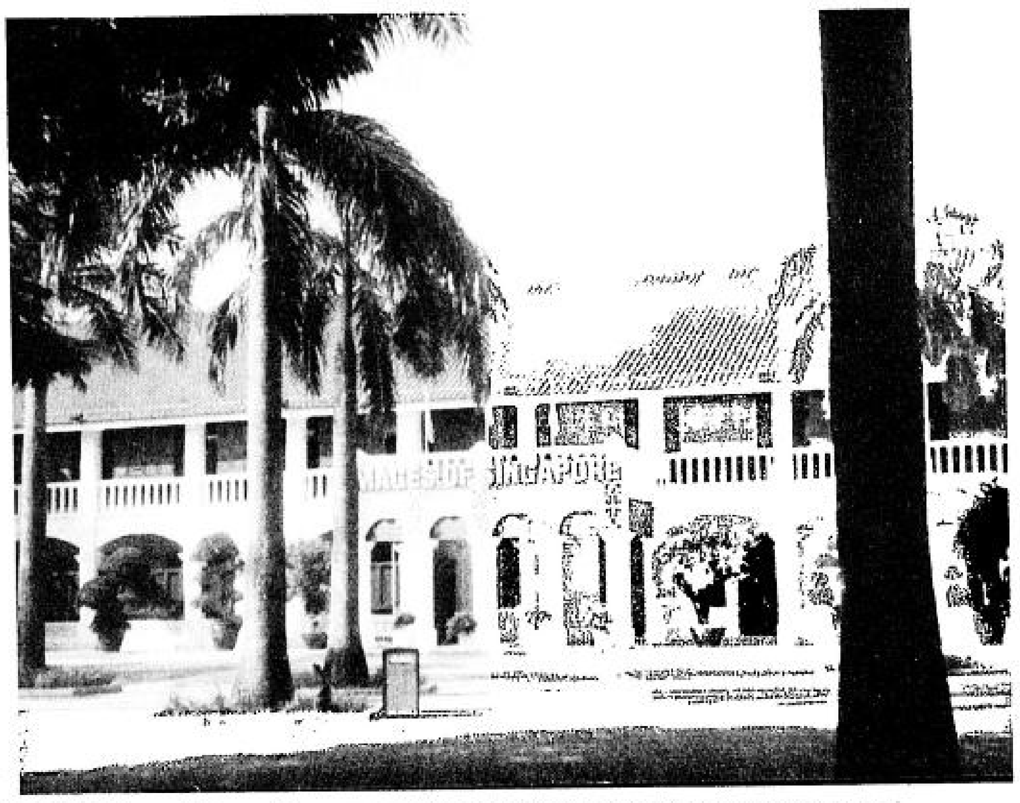
Adventure island

The island resort of Sentosa hosted another exhibit called "Images of Singapore." One could also ride the Sky Tower and enjoy the breathtaking view from 131 meters above sea level, roam at the Fort Siloso and see the mysteries of the deep at the revamped Merlion.

A new source of adventure was the luge. Part go-cart, part-toboggan, the first ever luge in Southeast Asia has a unique steering and braking system that allows a passenger to make the ride either leisurely or exciting at the 650-meter road that goes downhill.

Another source of excitement was the specially constructed exhibit at the Underwater World which housed the sea angels (*Clione limacine*), the jelly-like, shell-less like appe per secor swim grac

Other offered child or a not, were eagle ray as shark dugong (s



TOURISTS get a history of Singapore and its people through the exhibition called "Images of Singapore," housed in this building on Sentosa Island.

JOURNALISTS get a thrill riding the luge on S
Southeast Asia, the luge was inaugurated last

Max comfort and convenience at budget fare

Text and photos by Mylene Francisco

A COMFORTABLE EARLY MORNING VAN ride brought us to the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark Field, Pampanga where we boarded a new Tiger Airways aircraft for our budget flight to Singapore.

But we certainly enjoyed more than budget travel comfort, convenience and service though Tiger Airways' plane fare for the Clark-to-Singapore route costs only US$80-US$100. Currently, they even have a 30-percent discount promo (Check out www.tigerairways.com).

Tiger Airways affordable rates enabled it to register recently its 500,000th passenger on a flight from Singapore to Vietnam before completing its first full year of operations.

The company has four new Airbus A320 planes and expects to increase the number to nine this year. With this fleet, it expects to fly three million passengers a year to more Asia-Pacific destinations. A team of engineers, operations personnel, pilots and cabin crew are trained to ensure that the highest international safety standards are met.

"Tiger Airways has been able to grow rapidly because it follows strictly the business model of successful low-cost carriers (LCC) like Ryanair and Southwest Airlines. Our success shows... the model works for Tiger Airways as well, and travelers in Asia have fully embraced the concept of budget air travel," said Tony Davis, CEO of Tiger Airways.

Davis has 18 years of airline experience, earning valuable experience as founding managing director of Bmibaby, the highly successful British low-fare carrier.

Tiger Airways is Singapore's largest and most popular low-fare airline, currently flying to 11 cities in six countries, within a four-hour radius: Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Macau SAR, Philippines and Indonesia. Singapore Airlines is a major investor in Tiger Airways.

Tiger Airways has stringent cost controls to keep fares low. It also focuses on short haul flights for high productivity and efficiency. Aside from online booking, the airline keeps costs low by dropping services like food and in-flight entertainment. Passengers can buy food and drinks at the airport, or in the aircraft.

For overseas Filipino workers, the no-frill flights are welcome as they are able to come home more often.

Garden city state

As a first-time visitor, I expected Singapore to be a concrete jungle. But I was surprised by the wonderfully clean air and the many trees, over 100,000 in gardens all around the city state. Singapore is a well-planned, cleaner, greener, healthier and more relaxing environment.

Cars older than 10 years old are no longer allowed on the streets. But, with an efficient and reliable MRT (mass rapid transit), thousands of taxis and air-conditioned buses, people can afford not to use cars.

Old buildings have been thoughtfully preserved and redeveloped as museums, art centers or charming restaurants that blend well with modern skyscrapers.

For our media familiarization trip, our hosts, Tiger Airways and Singapore Tourism Board (STB), tried to show us as much of Singapore as possible.

Major stop

We took the cable car to the 500-hectare Sentosa leisure island resort with its golf courses, beaches, specialty restaurants and fun amusement rides.

The newest attraction is the Sentosa Luge, an engine-less go-kart ride with a $5.5-million, 650-meter luge track. An aerial lift cableway brings you to the top of a hill from where you go down on a go kart.

The Underwater World of Singapore, one of Asia's most popular oceanariums, has more than 2,500 marine animals and over 250 species of fish.

The story of Singapore is told through the Images of Singapore exhibit.

The trip to Sentosa is capped by a dancing fountain show in a garden with music and laser lights

Also a must-see in Singapore is the Jurong Bird Park's 9,200 birds of 610 species. The 20-hectare park has the world's biggest walk-in aviary, tallest manmade waterfall and biggest collection of Southeast Asian birds. It also has the biggest variety of birds performing in a bird show.

Food trip

Of course, no trip to Singapore would be complete without tasting the food, an interesting mix of Malay, Chinese and Indian culinary traditions.

Shopping included visits to Chinatown and the 24-hour Mustafa Center in Little India for the best bargains. We also checked out Orchard Road for international brand names.

The highlight of my Singapore adventure was a visit to the multi-awarded, world-famous 40 hectare Night Safari to see exotic and wild animals.

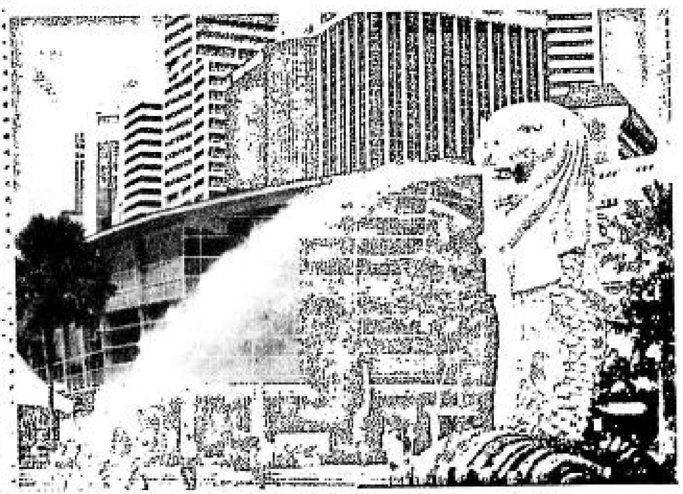
Eight geographical regions are represented: Himalayan Foothills, Nepalese River Valley, Indian Subcontinent, Equatorial Africa, Indo-Malayan region, Asian Riverine forest, South American Pampas and Burmese Hillside.

Some 900 nocturnal animals of over 1 species, 75 percent of which are endangered, were on view. They included Asian lions, Malayan tigers, one-horned rhino, giraffes, African bongo, elephants, buffalo, blue sheep, striped hyena, and golden jackal.

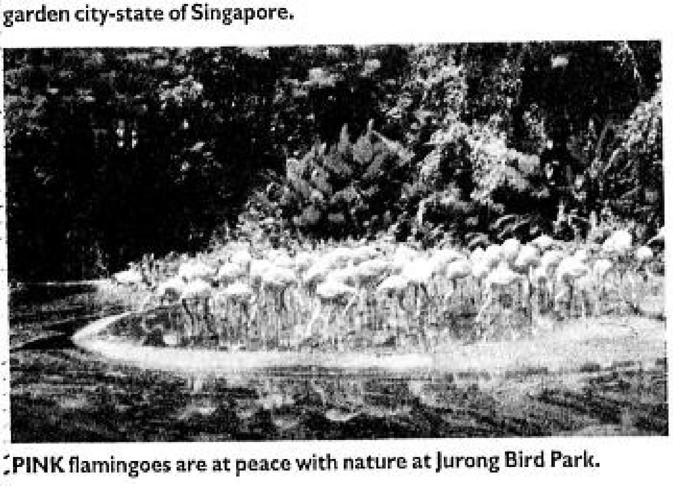
At US$80-$100, Tiger Airways has brought the luxury of air travel within the reach of more people

MEDIA friends from the Philippines board Tiger Airways' aircraft for an adventure trip to Singapore.

TIGER Airways president and CEO Tony Davis gives members of media a warm welcome.



THE MERLION gives everyone a roaring welcome to the bustling garden city-state of Singapore.



PINK flamingoes are at peace with nature at Jurong Bird Park.

DUE TO scarcity of land, 90 percent of Singaporeans live in clean and colorful government-subsidized public up-rise buildings, amid gardens and parks.

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entosa Island. A first in August.

sea snails with wing-
ndages that flap twice
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nderwater adventures
r everyone, whether
lult, scuba-certified or
ncounters with sharks,
, sawfish, also known
with swords and
a cows).

RP's tourist spots in a bottle

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. (CCBPI) to further boost domestic tourism through specially designed Coca-Cola bottles that will be distributed in all regions.

These limited-edition bottles showcase the country's various tourist attractions, major festivals and products that make the Philippines a unique tourist destination.

A first-of-its-kind in the country, the Coca-Cola 2006 Limited-Edition Bottles are full-body wrap 8-oz glass bottles that bear the Department of Tourism's "Biyahe Na!" seal and will feature one tourist destination every month. For January, the featured destination is the province of Cebu.

The bottles will be made available in airports, hotels and resorts, Duty Free and other souvenir shops, pier and bus terminals, restaurants and food outlets, petrol stations, supermarkets and during fiestas for a limited time only. Each bottle will cost P20.

Other available designs include the Peñafrancia Festival, which features Naga City's annual fluvial parade; Bacolod's Masskara Festival and its colorful parade of masks; and Christmas, which highlights the *parol* or lantern as the symbol of the Filipino Christmas spirit.

Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines, Inc. president Roberto N. Huang said, "This tie-up with DOT reinforces the San Miguel Group's vision through CCBPI to make everyday life a celebration by being part of every fiesta and major cultural celebration across the Philippines. It highlights our belief that the Philippines is among the world's most beautiful places and should undoubtedly be a favorite travel destination not only of foreigners, but also of Filipinos."

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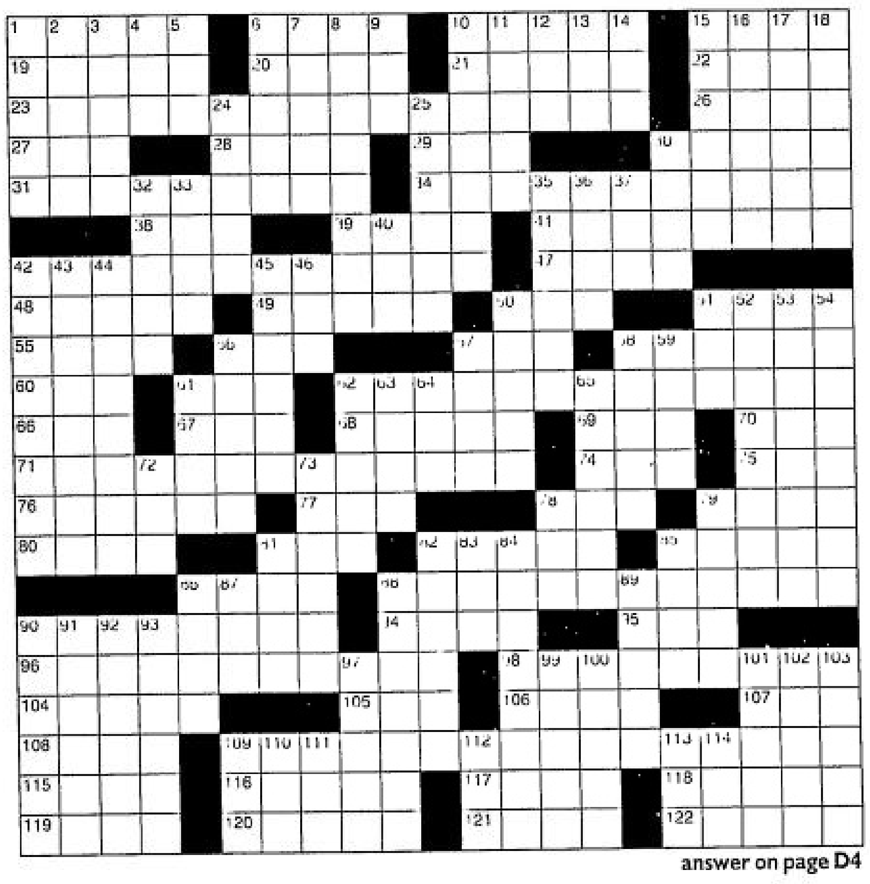
PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

PIANO PIECES

ACROSS
1 Mother, in Mexico
6 Bursts open
10 Ewe, e.g.
15 FDR's mother
19 Birdbrain
20 Bufferin target
21 Yuppie belt attachment
22 GI on the run
23 "Howards End" film duo
26 Timber wolf
27 Land surrounded by "eau"
28 Hightail it
29 "— y plata" (Montana motto)
30 Not available, as a seat
31 Brain parts
34 Light driving tools
38 "Ally McBeal" actress Lucy
39 Autobahn car
41 Get used to gradually
42 Girls' slacks
47 One-named supermodel
48 Furious
49 Ascends
50 Dollar pts.
51 Raleigh's st.
55 Container weight
56 Major network
57 Beer for a Brit
58 Coffee-flavored liqueur
60 Suffix with banjo
61 Lifting lingerie
62 1955 Astaire/Caron film
66 Quick escape
67 "— and Stimpy"
68 Ran in neutral
69 — Lingus (Irish carrier)
70 MGM motto starter
71 Periodical since 1945
74 Mauna — (Hawaiian volcano)
75 Actor Kilmer
76 "Lust for Life" actor Everett
77 "Bravo, senor!"
78 Bouquet delivery co.
79 Abominable snowman
80 Belgrade native
81 They're below pecs
82 Capo's group
85 Like a — a trap
86 — breve (cut time)
88 Keeps waiting
90 Quotation puzzle
94 Tuba, e.g.
95 L.A. hours
96 Largo's chain
98 Unqualified
104 Baby deer
105 Lofty rails
106 Santa's coat?
107 Ump's yell
108 Iran locale
109 Get closer to justice?
115 "— it ironic?"
116 Of element #5
117 In this spot
118 In — (unborn)
119 Wrath
120 Rivulet
121 Tree of Life locale
122 Argon and xenon, e.g.

DOWN
1 Imitate
2 An Astaire
3 More terrible
4 Bird of myth
5 Verb suffix in the Bible
6 Judging bunch
7 Of the number eight
8 King Tut and others
9 State rep.
10 Helixes
11 Ruination
12 Personality part
13 Eternally, in poetry
14 Nose about
15 Hero meat
16 No longer asleep
17 Poet Frost
18 Ballerina Alicia
24 Enjoyed greatly
25 Overly fond ones
30 Federal agts.
32 Thrill
33 Ill humor
35 Harvey of Hollywood
36 Easter entrees
37 Big — house
40 — Wee Reese
42 Unmerciful
43 Like a chalkboard
44 Devonshire plateau or prison
45 City adjoining Champaign
46 Marie, to Donny
50 Bonnie's sidekick
51 Rangers' org.
52 Not pull apart from
53 With cheese baked on top
54 Grappling, to Granny
56 Thick liqueur
57 Yemeni city
58 Hit with a low blow, in a way
59 Taj Mahal's place
61 — Mawr (Philly suburb)
62 Radio knobs
63 Wood axe
64 Cato's 551
65 Strong cardboard
72 Arrest
73 Return
78 Shark feature
79 Crimean port
81 Others, to Ovid
82 Peak of NE Greece
83 LAX abbr.
84 Done
85 Coarse file
86 Sale proviso
87 Inc., in Enfield
88 Loan shark
89 Deluge
90 Brief romance
91 First-rate
92 Oarsman's activity
93 Florid
97 Uncanny
99 — Dame
100 Figure skater Sasha
101 Skeleton makeup
102 Shameful gain
103 Moral climate
109 Alphabet opener
110 "— favor" ("Please")
111 Start for eminent
112 Fidel cohort Guevara
113 Wiretap
114 Greek letter



answer on page D4

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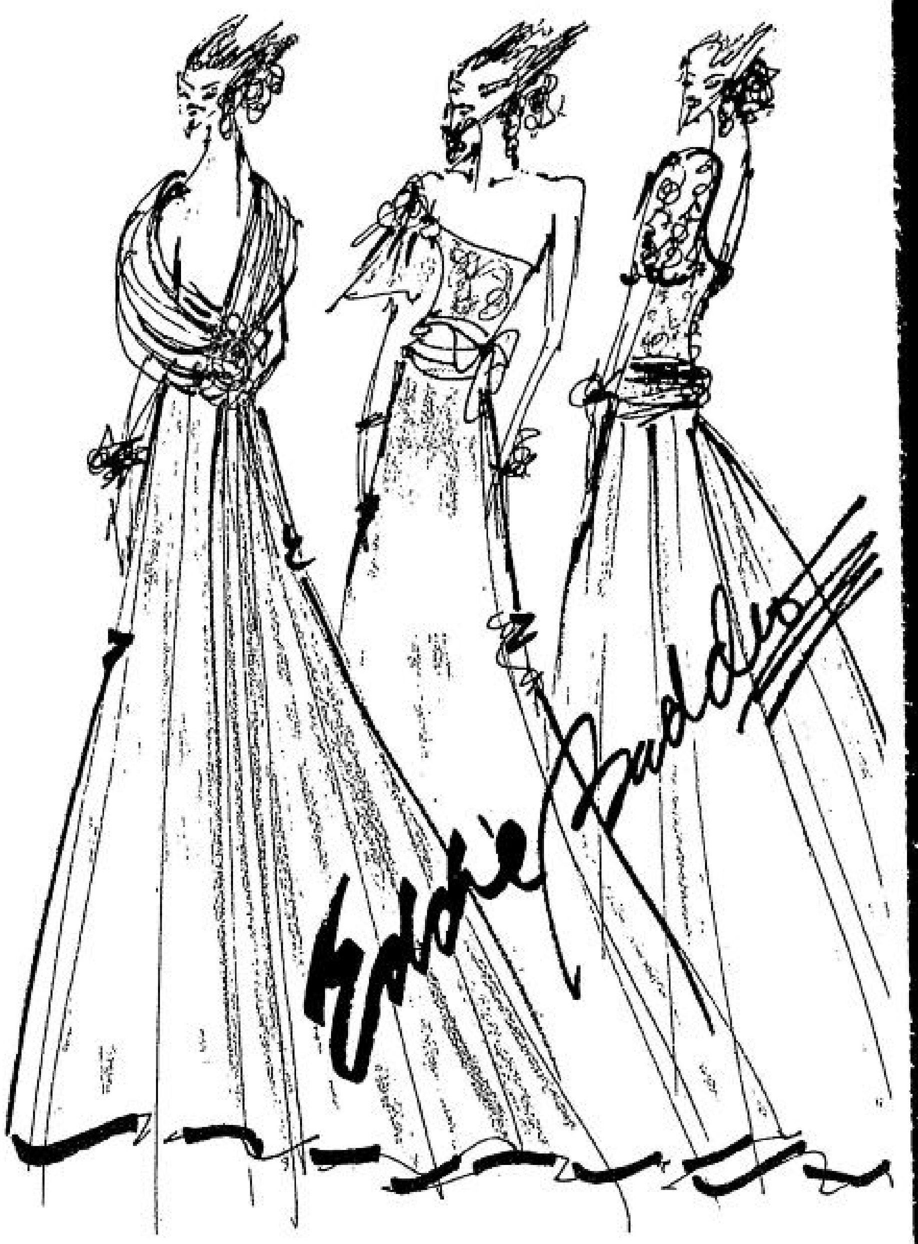

OFW modeling tilt in Hong Kong

THE FIRST-EVER MODELING competition of OFWs in Hong Kong aims to promote camaraderie and unity among Filipinos working abroad.

HK-based models Jane Nicop, Cynthia Jimeno, Charlyn Roque, Virgie Castro Baliton, Heidi Hernandez, Loida Galinato, Jane Dacumos, Rowena Bunao and Cheryl Saldivar will sashay down the runway and compete for the title Pinay Top Model 2006, on Jan. 29 at Chater Garden, Central Hong Kong.

The show is produced by Tel True Limited Production under Rocele Cabansag, with Anthony Humilde directing. The Filipino OFW population in HK is about 160,000.

Modern Filipiniana gowns and cocktail dresses will be provided by Filipino fashion designer Eddie Baddeo, who will also grace the event as one of the board of jurors.

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On the beat of love

In the rush to file stories about violence and crime, police beat reporters Tina Santos and Ricky Tulipat found each other

STORY ON PAGE D2

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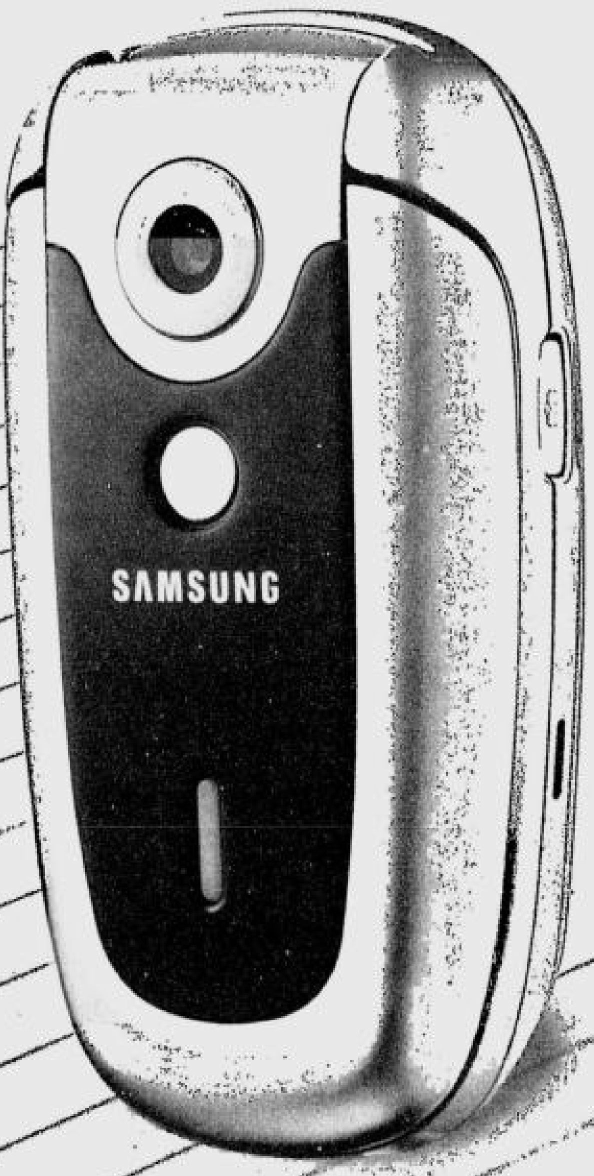

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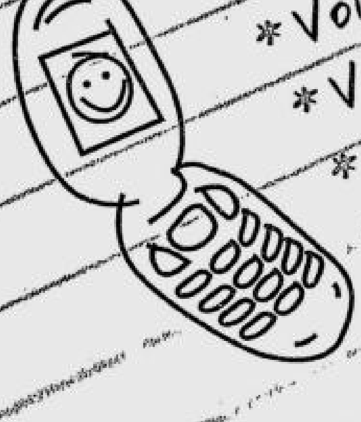

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TULIPAT-SANTOS NUPTIALS

On the beat of love

LOVE, ACTUALLY. The happy newlyweds Tina and Ricky

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

IT WAS ONE OF THOSE TYPICAL harried days when two news reporters rushed to their police beats to meet their deadline. And it was when they had their noses buried in the same horrid stories, the reports of crime leaping from the pages of the dog-eared police blotter, when love found them.

It was the summer of 2003. Both were busy getting over their previous relationships. She thought he was tacky, with his weakness for floral shirts and the color pink, and his unabashed behavior of often putting on loose powder. On the other hand, he thought she was aloof and unapproachable, and way out of his league.

But as fate would have it, they bumped into each other more often than they thought they would. They became friends, and soon she found herself relying on him for help despite the stiff competition among reporters for scoops. Tina G. Santos was 25 then, a rookie in the world of crime reportage, working for the INQUIRER. Ricky T. Tulipat was 34, already a seasoned reporter for the Philippine Star's compact newspaper, Pang-Masa.

When Ricky's widowed mother Elizabeth died suddenly of cardiac arrest, Tina was the one friend who comforted him most. Tina knew that his father, Roque, had died when he was young, and that his mother had since meant the world to him. It was then that Ricky, realized he had fallen in love with his friend.

Still, Ricky had to muster the courage to begin pursuing his inamorata. The nine-year age gap between him and Tina bothered him, although Tina did not appear perturbed. Tina, of course, was already feeling their relationship could crank up a notch, but pretended to be nonchalant.

He stood out among the boys she had known, Tina said. He seemed more settled, mature, responsible and extremely patient. But more than that, Ricky, she said, had been a dutiful son to his mother, attending to her needs and wants till the old lady's last breath.

"*Pag mabait sa nanay, mabait sa magiging asawa,*" she said.

Like the well-meaning guy that he is, Ricky certainly didn't want her to think he was merely taking advantage of her youth. And being just as religious, he began to pray to God for signs.

His first sign, Ricky said, was when one day Tina disclosed to him that she was never going to get back again with her ex. The other sign was when she began using a song Ricky used to sing to himself as her cell phone's ring tone.

One day, when the daily grind was over and Tina boarded the LRT to head back home to Makati from "Camanava," Ricky, in a flight of panic, impulsively sent her a text message declaring his love for her.

Tina's good humor took hold of her, and she mischievously teased him with "Oo ba." Unable to believe his eyes, and his luck, he immediately called her up—just to make sure.

Altar date

Tina, 28, and Ricky, 37, officially pledged their life of togetherness on Jan. 5 in a solemn ceremony officiated by Fr. Cris D. Magbitang, an old friend of the Santoses, at the St. Pancratius Chapel (Paco Park) in Paco, Manila. Peach, Tina's favorite color, was the wedding motif.

The bride was a breathtaking picture of love and bloom as she walked down the aisle with her parents, Renato and Milagros, to the music of "Love Moves (In Mysterious Ways)." The groom, looking smart in a snappy barong, was swept by a surge of emotion as he declared, his voice trembling: "*Buong puso kitang tinatanggap bilang aking maybahay...*"

Tina's younger sister and only sibling, 20-year-old Abegail Santos, was the maid of honor while cousin Liberty S. Peralta stood as matron of honor. The groom's cousin, Julius T. Bariso, was best man, and Dr. Kristine S. San Miguel was the bridesmaid. Junior groomsman was Kevin Danniel T. Goli and junior bridesmaid was Carmina A. Goli. Ricky's four siblings—Ofhero, Canuto, Rowena and Mercy—were also present.

Principal sponsors were Malabon-Navotas chief prosecutor Jorge G. Catalan Jr., Rodney C. Riteza, Hilacio B. San Miguel, Zenaida A. Goli, Rosalie T. Goli and Nely T. Bariso. Secondary sponsors were Sonny A. Goli, Karen Bernadette T. Goli, Rolly N. Peralta, Mercy T. Tulipat, Kristian Carlo T. Goli and Anna Lorraine A. Goli.

Reception followed at the Old Swiss Inn of the Garden Plaza Hotel and Suites, where close to 200 guests, including the press corps, were treated to early dinner.

The newlyweds honeymooned in Boracay. After a year, they say, they'll start having kids.

"Five," says the groom.

"Two," insists the bride.

And there they go!

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

THE SECONDARY SPONSORS. Carmina Goli, junior bridesmaid; Kristine S. San Miguel, bridesmaid; Liberty S. Peralta, matron of honor; Abegail Santos, maid of honor; the newlyweds; Julius T. Bariso, best man; Kevin Danniel Goli, junior groomsman; Janelle Marie Marasigan and Hannah Cecilia Aragona, flower girls; Danielle Dominic Goli, ring and coin bearer; Jethro Tulipat, Bible bearer

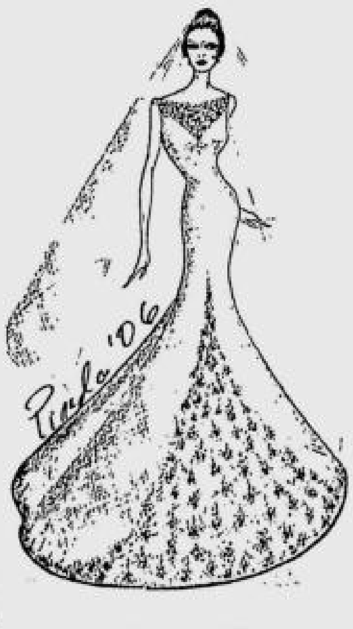
WITH THE BRIDE'S parents, Renato and Milagros Santos, and the groom's siblings, Rowena Aragona and Ofhero Tulipat

PARTY poppers are used instead of the traditional rice grains as the couple steps out of St. Pancratius Chapel in Paco Park.

WITH FRIENDS from the INQUIRER editorial department

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.



DEL BEN-CATALON

Marie Catalon, daughter of **José** and **Nora Catalon**, will marry **David del Ben**, son of **Pietro del Ben**, on Jan. 25 at the Chapel of Transfiguration, Nasugbu, Batangas. **Eric Pineda** designed the bride's stylized Filipiniana gown. It is made of delicately embroidered illusion tulle with a Sabrina neckline worn over an inner gown of ecru bridal satin, traced with caviar beads, faux pearls and iridescent sequins. Reception will be at Tagaytay Highlands Country Club.

MENDOZA ANNIVERSARY

Mariano and **Aurora Mendioza** recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with a Thanksgiving Mass and renewal of vows at the Lipa City Cathedral. Reception was at Club Victorina, Lipa City.

DIAZ-GUEVARRA

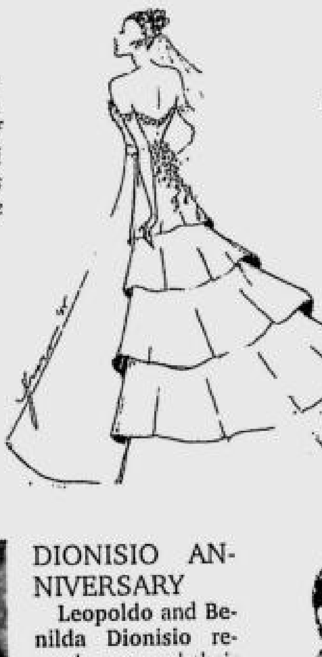
Jennyvi Reyes Guevarra, daughter of **Alberto** and **Corazon Guevarra**, will wed **Robert Diaz**, son of **Fernando** and **Lilia Diaz**, on Jan. 28 at Our Lady of Holy Rosary Church. Fr. **Reynado Reloj** will officiate at the ceremonies. Reception will follow at Villa Leonila, San Pedro, Laguna.

LAHORRA-TAGLE

Oliver Araneta Lahorra, son of **Marcela Araneta** and **Enrique Lahorra**, recently tied the knot with **Marcy Buitre Tagle**, daughter of **Trinidad** and **Rosendo Tagle**, at Saint Gregory the Great Cathedral, Legazpi City.

VALERA-MAGLAQUE

Cherry Rose Centeno Maglaque, daughter of **Renato** and **Charito Maglaque**, will marry **Sean Cesar Gamboa Valera**, son of Dr. **Mariano Antonio** and Dr. **Florinda Valera**, on Jan. 29 at St. Francis of Assisi Chapel, Fernwood Gardens. **Totoy Madriaga** designed the bride's off-white Duchess satin gown, with fully beaded tube top and A-line skirt and detachable train.



ROSAROSO-HINLO

Jeffrey Rosaroso, son of **Blas** and **Evelyn Rosaroso**, recently married **Rosemarie Hinlo**, daughter of **Rodolfo** and **Sonia Hinlo**, at Iglesia ni Cristo Church, Makati. **Tito Franco** designed the bride's chiffon gown, with a bustier accented with cut beads, pearls, and Swarovski rhinestones, and a three meter-long train.

DIONISIO ANNIVERSARY

Leopoldo and **Benilda Dionisio** recently renewed their wedding vows to mark their 25th wedding anniversary. Msgr. **Cerbo** officiated at the ceremony at the Manila Cathedral. The occasion also served as a celebration of the 50th birthday of Leopoldo and the 23rd birthday of daughter **Marriolle**. Reception followed at the Grand Ballroom of Great Eastern Hotel, Makati.

He isn't the same man she married 25 years ago

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

My husband and I have been married for 25 years and have five children, all grown up. I'm 54 and he is 51.

We work in the same group of companies but our offices are in different parts of Makati. We are both certified public accountants (CPAs) and occupy top finance positions in the companies we work for.

He seems satisfied with his job and has not pursued further studies. I, on the other hand, am an MBA graduate and now working on my dissertation for a doctoral degree in business administration.

I thought our "happy" family was forever, but in 1999 I noticed a change in my husband. I found him suddenly different, quiet. He started drinking and coming home late.

I kept asking what the problem was. After saying "nothing" so many times, he admitted to having had a one-night stand and worried that he might have contracted a disease from the girl that he could transmit to me.

We went to the doctor and he was given a clean bill of health.

Since then, I became suspicious every time he came home late. I kept checking his cell phone, his wallet. I became a nagger. He kept telling me to trust him, that he was just making *pakisama* with the boss who had to entertain clients.

He developed textmates that he said were women from karaoke bars. When I told him to stop, he threatened to leave because it was "nothing."

Then he started playing golf. He'd play on weekends, even on weekdays. There's a "fellowship" after the golf that meant more alcohol. He would come home past midnight or early morning. He started living like he was somebody, boosting his image among his relatives.

My husband is an illegitimate son. He was accepted by his half-siblings only when their own mother died a few years ago. He became close to them and even spent a month with their father in the United States.

When the father died two years ago, he continued visiting his siblings in Mindanao. He had become closer to them, communicating regularly with the family by text messages or phone calls.

Recently, I saw love messages from a sister-in-law of his who stayed with us once or twice when she was here on vacation. We all even slept in one room at one time.

Both of them denied that anything was happening between them. We never talked about it again. I lost trust in him and challenged him that we separate. He still comes home but we don't talk anymore.

I also discovered that he had been supporting his relatives without telling me. Over the years, I have been more than generous in helping my in-laws financially. They borrowed our cars for business and personal use with nary a word from me.

I have started to keep my salary in a separate account in case we separate. This has added to the friction in our house. I feel so betrayed that he has done all this to me.

ANONYMOUS WIFE

Your husband isn't the same person you married 25 years ago. It will be terribly difficult for you to comprehend what's happening if you keep looking for that man you married a quarter of a century ago.

His past has caught up with his present and this is creating a tremendous impact on your relationship. His personality has evolved and has now a lot of facets that you have to understand if you want to save your marriage.

Being illegitimate is no joke. The stigma affects a child's psyche and, like it or not, weighs heavily on his consciousness and occa-

HE/ D4

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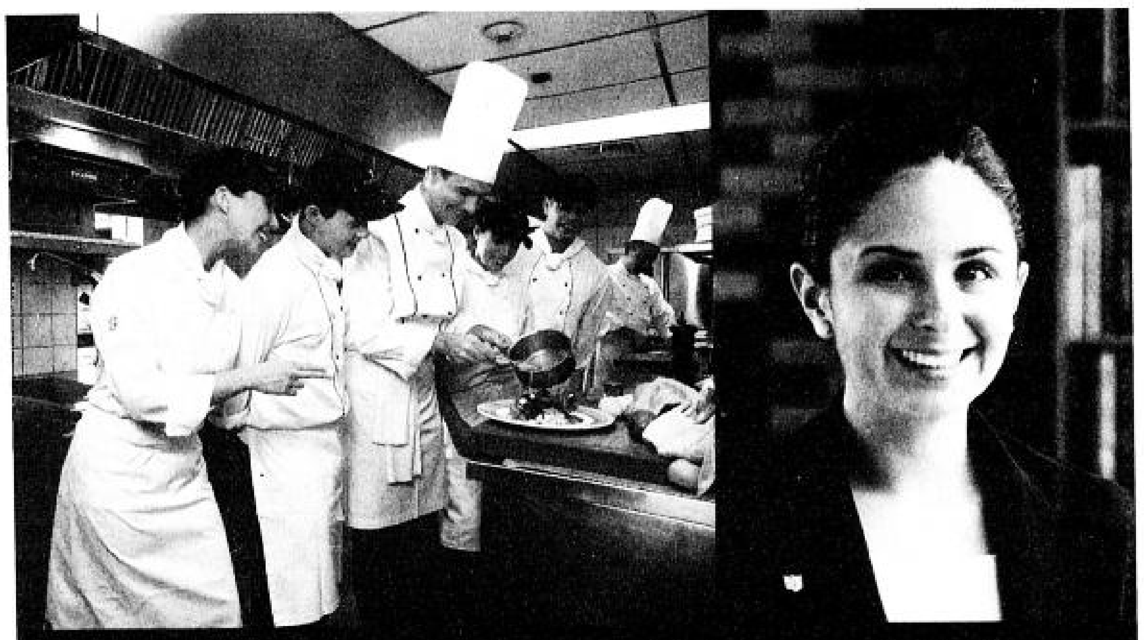

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15th anniversary of Niño's miracle

Hundreds of devotees of child Jesus expected to gather in BF Resort Village on Jan. 27

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

ON JAN. 27, AT 7 A.M., DEVOTEES OF STO. Niño de Providencia will gather at 65 Pijuan St., BF Resort Village, to celebrate the 15th anniversary of a miracle that occurred in that place. Priests will anoint people with holy oil for healing.

Fifteen years ago, the 2-ft statue of the Child Jesus owned by Corazon Gonzales started releasing oil from its body as it moved around the living room of the house. Oil was everywhere.

Auntie Azon asked the nuns of St. Pius X in Philamlife Village to help wipe the floor. Oil-filled towels were wiped on the sick who were healed.

A small chapel was built later in one of the rooms where the holy image was enthroned.

Five years after the miracle, a childless couple, Dr. Quintin Callueng and his wife Francisca, came and prayed for a child.

Francisca gave birth to a healthy baby boy and promptly named him "Niño." He is now 10 years old. Dr. Callueng and his family will be among devotees who will attend the 3 p.m. Mass to be celebrated by Msgr. Philip Ocol at Mary Mother of the Church parish in BF Resort Village.

A motorcade at 2:30 p.m. will bring to the church the miraculous image of the Sto. Niño that will be in a Pope Mobile owned by the Francisco family. The image will be returned to the chapel on a flower-bedecked *carroza* donated by Boy Ponce.

Lorna Gonzales, the image's caretaker after her mother Corazon passed away, said many lives were changed after praying to the Sto. Niño de Providencia. Couples whose prayers for children were granted came often to give thanks. Some 10,000 devotees come every year for the fiesta.

Festival

Sophia School in Meycauayan, Bulacan, is holding a month-long celebration of the annual feast of its patron, the Child Jesus, in the school campus. "Sadana Festival, Pista ng mga Bata" features various activities such as daily visits to the image of the Child Jesus, First Communion Mass for Grade 3 children, Little School Officials' Day, *agape* (love sharing) among faculty members and students, and adopt-a-kid for a day.

A street prayer-dancing cum procession will start at 3 p.m., Jan. 28, from the school.

Call Marie Ann Abacan, assistant administrator, at (044)8401814 or 0915-5376065.

Silver anniversary

The 25th anniversary of the propagation of devotion to the centuries-old Ina Poonbato on Jan. 23, at the Ina Poonbato pilgrimage church, Loob-Bunga resettlement area, Botolan, Zambales, will be highlighted with a Marian Congress and whole-day celebration of Masses.

Rosellyn Magsaysay, president of the Ina Poonbato Foundation Inc., said the propagation of the devotion began in 1981 when the Blessed Mother became the patroness of the Balikatan sa Kaunlaran during the Rosary Rally Crusade of World Peace.

Since then, Rosellyn, who spearheaded the devotion spreading it not only locally but worldwide, said several favors, manifestations and cures accredited to the Virgin's intercession had been documented. Chapters of Ina Poonbato worldwide now total 1,418.

The observance begins with a concelebrated Mass at 10 a.m. to be officiated and led by Most Rev. Florentino Lavarias of the Diocese of Zambales, followed with healing sessions by Sisters Philip Marie Burle of the United States and Raquel Reodica, RVM.

Speaker Jose de Venecia and wife Gina will lead the offering during the offertory, followed by governors and their wives, and the city mayor and his wife and Ina Poonbato chapter president, as *hermanos mayores*.

The Marian Congress will open at 1:30 p.m. with a prayer to be led by Fr. Ian Maniago. Speakers are Msgr. Chris Cacho, Msgr. Josefino Ramirez, Sis. Burle, Speaker and Ms. de Venecia, Mayor Sally Lee of Albay, Dr. Marianita Mendoza, Dr. Mercedes Atupan (Mindanao chapter) and Dr. Purisima Barbosa (Pasig chapter). People will give testimonies of miracles.

The congress will close with another Mass officiated by parish priest Rev. Fr. Jimboy Escurson.

Donation

The Physicians for Peace (PFP) has donated to the Philippine Coast Guard a hospital ship that sailed recently to Coron, Palawan, bringing medicines and volunteer doctors.

In Coron Hospital, major surgeries were performed. Minor operations were done on the ship. Leading the Filipino doctors was Dr. Ted Herbosa, emergency department chair of the Philippine General Hospital. Physicians from the United States also came.

The PFP is an international humanitarian, nonprofit medical education organization dedicated to building peace and international friendships in developing nations with unmet medical needs and scarce resources through medical education and training, clinical care and donated medical supplies.

Founded by Dr. Charles Norton in Norfolk, Virginia, in 1989, PFP operates in Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, India, Ecuador, Azerbaijan and the Philippines.

Umbrellas needed

Chit Padlan-Drilon of Arpex Travel is collecting umbrellas for poor communities in the mountains of Sipalay, Negros Occidental, which her husband Link Drilon, will bring on his next trip at the end of the month. Link didn't see one umbrella when he was there. Text 0917-8250817. Thank you for your kindness.

He isn't the same man . . .

From page D3

sionally jolts his normal life. That he is now accepted by the other family of his father is a big deal to him.

He was an outsider for the longest time and, now that he "belongs," he'd prove to one and sundry that he is a sibling they could be proud of. Never mind if he'd suffer financially to keep up appearances and he had to drag you along in this charade.

Though he took one step too many in trying to "belong" by having an affair with one of "them," it was still consistent with his gnawing desire to be an insider—whether among friends or his other family.

Twenty-five years is a lifetime. You probably consider yourself a good wife and mother, as well as a wonderful daughter-in-law, so it is understandable why you feel cheated and your patience stretched by all the present shenanigans of your husband.

Life is too short and you have a right to be happy. But before you give up on your marriage, exhaust all possible avenues of communication with him. See if anything is salvageable.

Continue watching your back though. Make sure that all your earthly possessions are divided equally and nobody is dispossessed unjustly.

Don't you wish life were less a pain?

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, subject Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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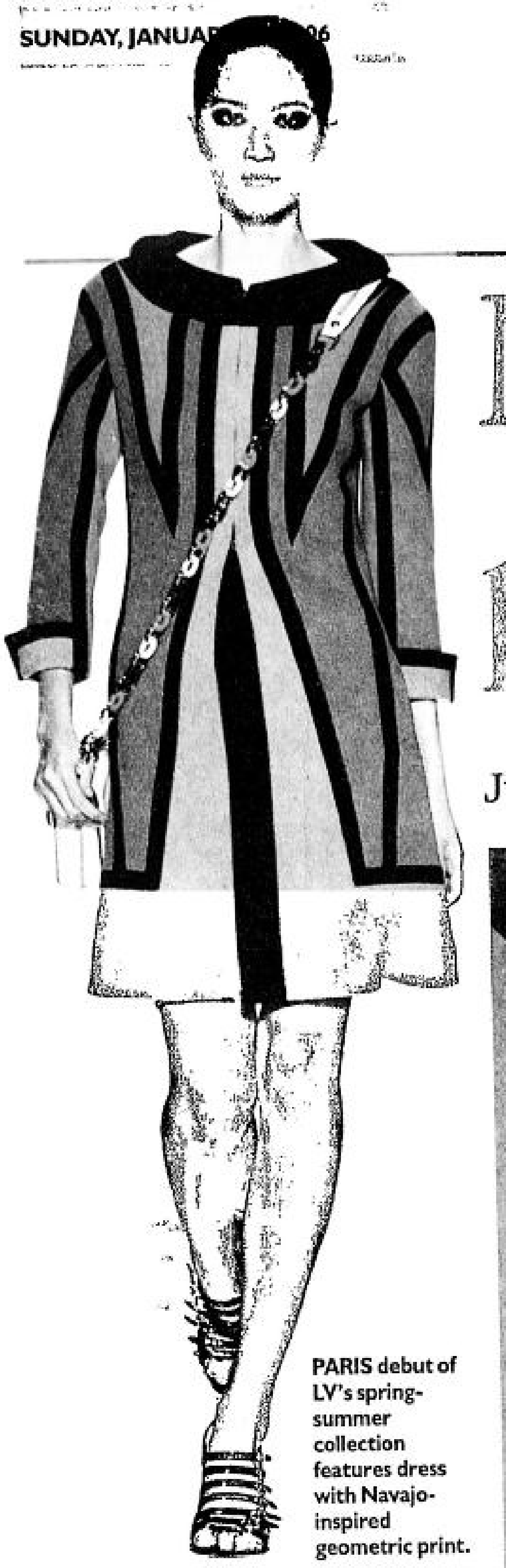
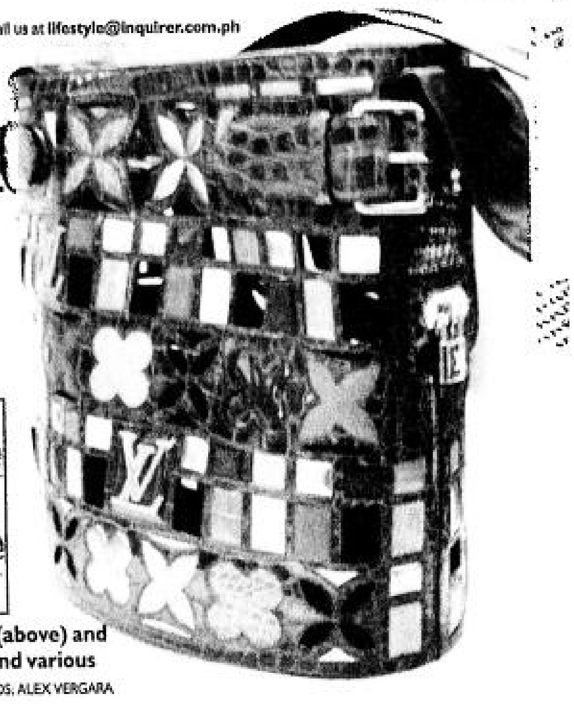


Marc Jacobs' American heartland



NEW bags with chainlink prints (above) and must-have bag in alligator skin and various types of leather (right) PHOTOS: ALEX VERGARA

Judging by Louis Vuitton's spring-summer line, Elvis has not really left the building

PARIS debut of LV's spring-summer collection features dress with Navajo-inspired geometric print.

By Alex Y. Vergara

FASHION DESIGNER MARC Jacobs has gone back to his American roots with a spring-summer women's collection for Louis Vuitton that drew inspiration from the southern part of the United States—from such diverse places as Santa Fe, Las Vegas and Graceland.

Fashion journalists from all over Asia were treated to a sneak preview of Jacobs' upcoming collections (including men's wear and the luxury brand's latest to-die-for bags, shoes and accessories) at a recent presentation in Bangkok.

The intimate salon show was held in Spring-Summer (how apt!), an all-white, two-story restaurant with touches of the 1950s.

If anything, the designer's latest pieces could be described as part-Georgia O'Keeffe and part-Elvis Presley, with ample influences from Gianfranco Ferre and the late Gianni Versace thrown in.

The luxury brand's artistic director used earthy but rich colors reminiscent of Navajo blankets to fashion form-fitting mini skirts and two-piece cropped ensembles that hark back to the 1960s and 1980s. Think Mod dresses with waistlines and structured "Dynasty" tops with broad shoulders sans shoulder pads.

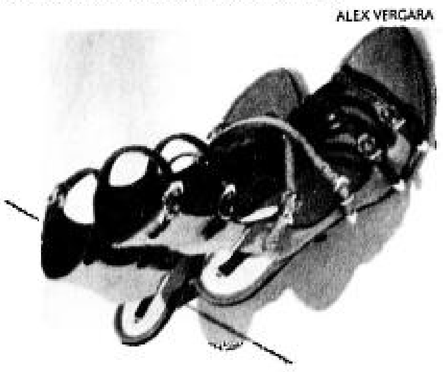
Apart from echoing the warm, ruddy colors of the southwestern landscape, a number of dresses in bone, terra cotta, sand and brown became ideal foil to pieces with vibrant accents in fuchsia, orange, crimson, ochre, turquoise and hot pink.

Not a few pieces were made of wool crepe and cotton blends, and accented with vintage patent leather in the form of belted and cropped trench coats and opera gloves.

MARC/ E2

BAGS made of laminated LV scarves

ALEX VERGARA



GLADIATOR sandals

ALEX VERGARA

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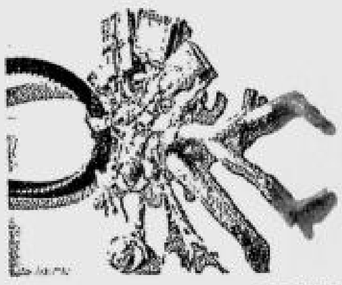
ONE-SIDED, strapless affair

CROPPED jacket and satin mini

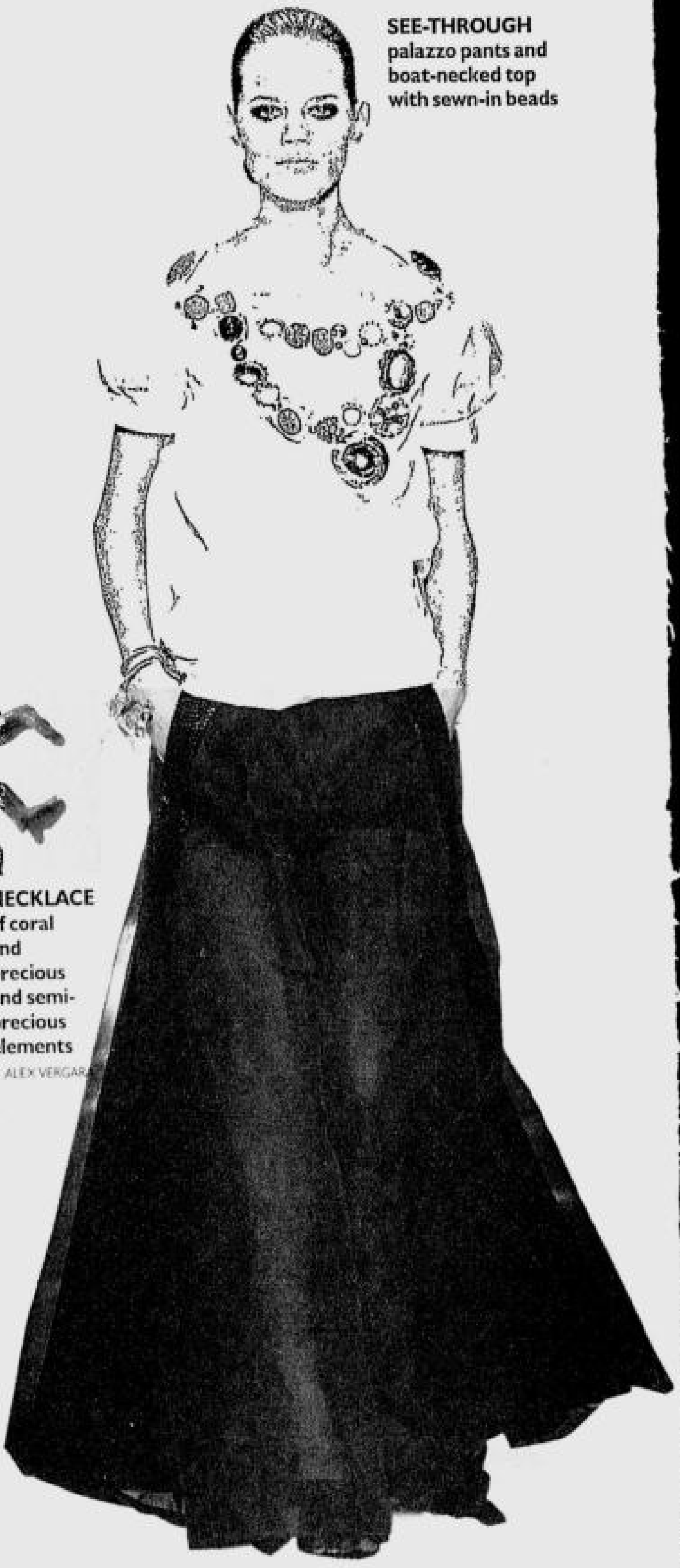
PATENT leather trench

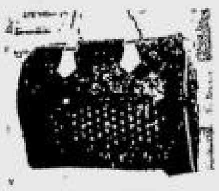
BUILT-IN shawl

Marc Jacobs' American heartland


NECKLACE of coral and precious and semi-precious elements

ALEX VERGARA


SEE-THROUGH palazzo pants and boat-necked top with sewn-in beads


PERFORATED monogram bag

ALEX VERGARA

From page E1

Jacobs toned down his accessories by going against the current rage of using long, multi-strand necklaces and wide belts with bold buckles. Instead he resorted to bold, eye-catching beadwork. Huge multicolored stones were trimmings on blouses and skirts and virtually doubled as permanent, sewn-in belts, brooches and necklaces. These elements were reportedly inspired by the huge semiprecious stones of New Mexico.

Versace's unseen hand could be seen in round golden buckles and shiny staple wires (remember those giant safety pins?), which held together panels that made up several jackets and dresses. Jacobs' impeccable tailoring was perhaps his best tribute to Ferre, himself a master of construction.

And where did the Elvis touch come in? The silky materials and fringing (as well as those colorful gems) recalled the King's stage costumes.

The media kit said everything was deliberately tuned a tone higher, including the multi-buckled gladiator shoes made of pony and alligator skin, since the LV woman is strong, lively, sparkling and devilishly sexy. Not to mention, super rich.

Provocative

Jacobs' men's line was equally provocative, as it drew from a mélange of late 1960s and early 1970s influences. Trousers were slim and tapered as well as the cropped jackets' lapels. Bermuda and boxer shorts staged a comeback in plain and printed materials that ranged from matte cotton twill to shiny jersey.

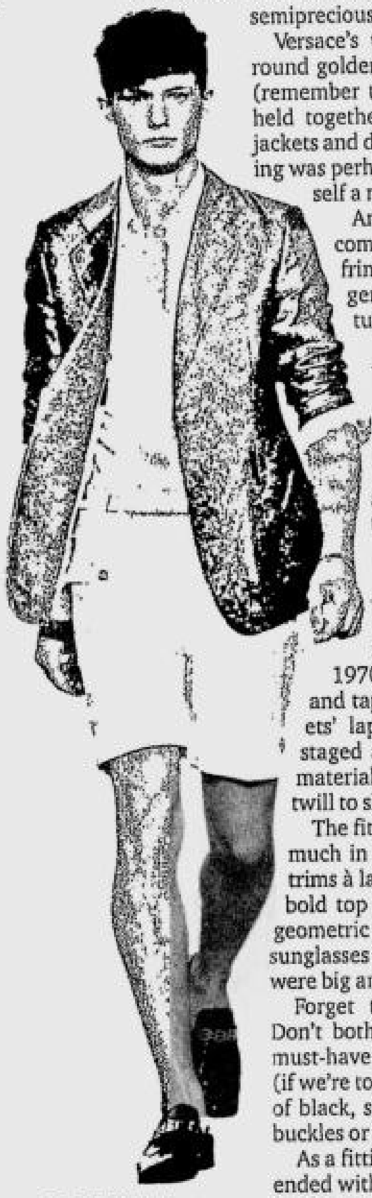
The fitted and military look was still very much in vogue in jackets with contrasting trims à la Chanel and denim ensemble with bold top stitching. Ties with diagonal and geometric prints were decidedly slim, while sunglasses (not shades!) with a Playboy feel were big and angular.

Forget those flip flops and espadrilles. Don't bother wearing socks as well, as the must-have accent for men this coming season (if we're to follow Jacobs' lead) is either a pair of black, sock-less patent leather shoes with buckles or shiny alligator slippers.

As a fitting finale to all that bling, the show ended with a male model in a gold lurex jacket and a pair of white Bermuda shorts. Jacobs reportedly designed the look to blend seamlessly anywhere in the French Riviera, Monte Carlo, Los Angeles or Las Vegas.

A man will have to channel Elvis' bold and confident spirit to pull off that look.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph


GOLDEN jacket with a Las Vegas feel

REGIONAL models in LV's Bangkok show

ALEX VERGARA

LV's "Global Shopper" in leather

ALEX VERGARA

MORE genuine articles

LONG and short

PURE blue denims

BOLD top stitching

CROPPED bomber jacket

SLIM silhouette

Memoirs of a geisha wannabe

From page E4

would try different places. But dining out can be expensive and takes us away from little Athena, so I have instructed my cook to add Japanese dishes to our meals. Clearly, I just delegate the cooking as I don't cook myself, even though a feng shui expert once told me that I would be an excellent cook if I did!

INQUIRER food columnist **Reggie Aspiras** is coming to my rescue. This stylish chef is conducting a series of cooking classes called the Gourmet Cucinera for cooks. Classes are taught in Tagalog and dishes are simple and economical for daily use. And the best part is that the classes are at the Shang Mall so I can have a treatment at Urban Spa while my Cucinera studies. The Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts is at 3/F, Bon Appetit beside Rustan's. The series starts this Tuesday, Jan. 24, and every Tuesday and Thursday after that. Call 6335162 or 9289296.

For her next series, Reggie will have diet and light recipes together with basics of table service and setting. Called the Healthy Series, courses on heart and diabetic cuisine will be offered. I might as well eat right since I am so desperately trying to get back into shape.

After starting my badminton and yoga at least once a week, I went back to my belly-dancing classes with sexy instructor **Gina-jane Grey** at the Rockwell Club. I felt so out of shape with the excess fat around my belly! Just thinking about my flamenco classes with her already hurts my feet but I should start soon. I still have a long way to go before I can be back in full form. In the meantime, I will be backstage during her recital at the RCBC Auditorium on Feb. 12. Do catch this show featuring my gorgeous classmates.

RHYTHMIC drummers Denise Celdran and Toni Bernardo

Literary homecoming

As I chronicle Manila's social life weekly, I have learned to include little memoirs. At the book launch of "Barefoot in Fire: A World War II Childhood," author **Barbara-Ann Gamboa Lewis** shared in her speech that once a piece of history is written and shared with your kids and grandkids, it becomes more personal and memorable.

After being away from the Philippines for 23 years, she returned to grace her launch and celebrated her 72nd birthday. Tahanan Books picked up the Philippine rights and invited her to come home. Ms Lewis, who is the older sister of Repertory Philippines' actress **Joy Virata**, donated her author's advance and royalty to Childhope Asia Philippines for the benefit of Manila's street children.

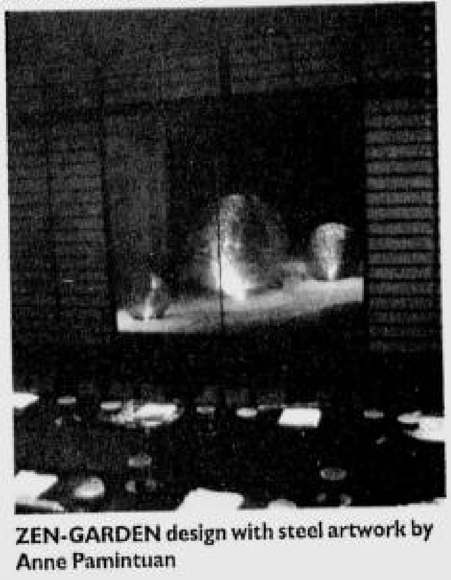
The novel comes with charming pen-and-ink illustrations by **Barbara Pollak** and is printed by Print Town on lovely, Tahanan buff paper. Today's young readers will readily identify with the book's feisty heroine as she struggles between right and wrong, joy and sadness, obedience and rebellion. "World War II was a long time ago," notes the author. "But some things are the same for all children, whenever the time, wherever the place."

E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

FORMER First Lady Imelda Marcos with teaching staff of Reggie Aspiras at the book launch of "Kitchen Rescue"

INQUIRER food expert and chef Reggie Aspiras

FLAMENCO master Antonio Vargas and belly queen Ginajane Grey


ZEN-GARDEN design with steel artwork by Anne Pamintuan

Success Up Close

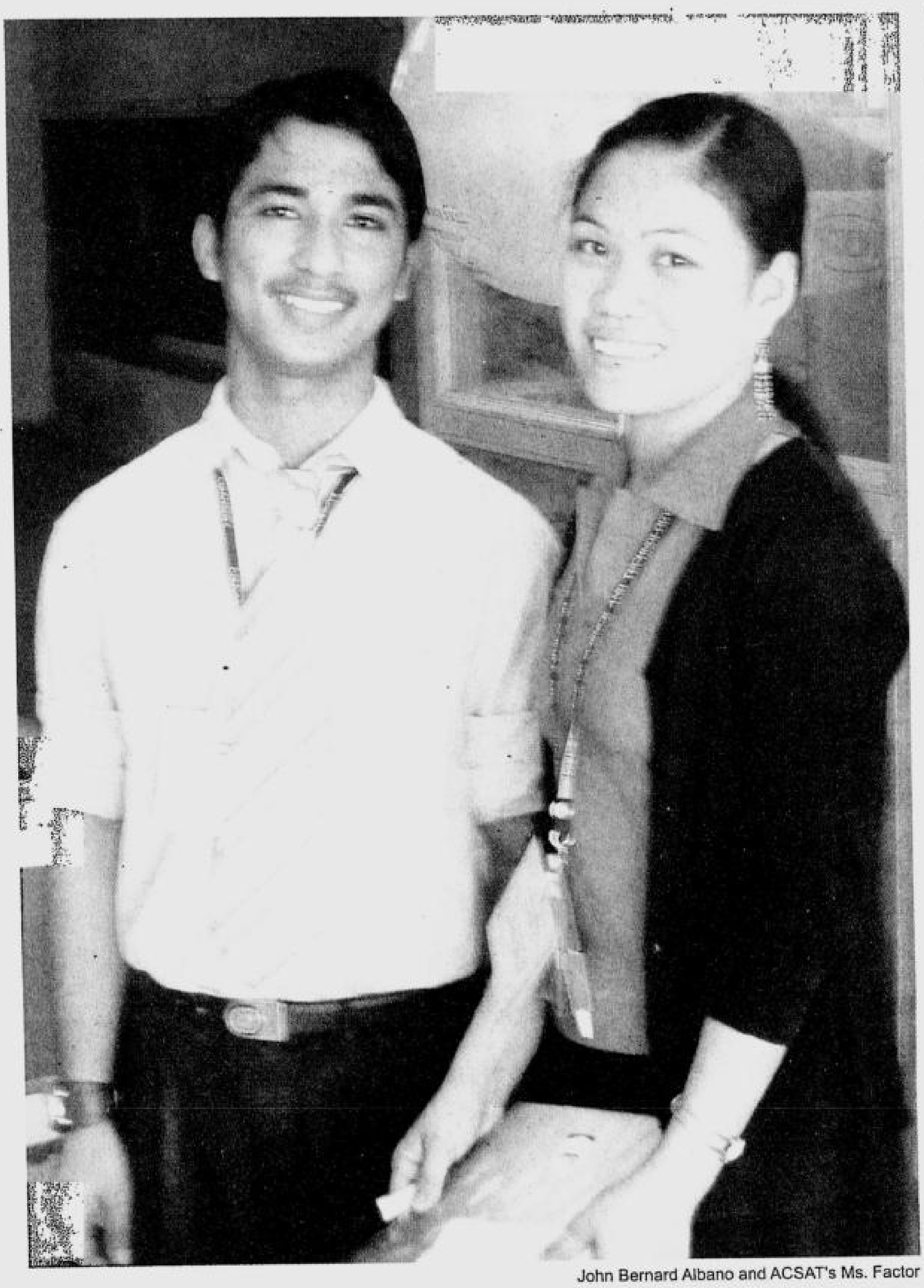
SEP at ACSAT

Ultimately, there's no teacher like experience. Even students who learn the best theories suddenly realize a new dimension once they see those theories in actual practice. That's what Asian College of Science and Technology (ACSAT) student coordinator John Bernard Albano believes intimately in explaining the value of the SMART Entrepreneurial Program (SEP) to his latest batch of graduating students.

"It's all about practical application," he tells us, "we teach them about business but it's when they see business in action, especially in entrepreneurship, that everything comes together." According to John, each batch of graduating students is exposed to different seminars of this practical application of business and other careers.

What's special about SEP is that for some time now in scores of other schools, it has been teaching the particular merits of entrepreneurship, of taking real responsibility for advancement in independent business. It presents to students real-life cases of successful entrepreneurs and their own valuable lessons. At every SEP seminar there are notes well worth taking.

And that's exactly what ACSAT students were doing at SEP. Some listened in amazement as they heard another student's tale of how he makes up to P1,500 a day with his SMART business and how he compared that income to that of a "regular" employee who is fresh from college. Clearly, SEP demonstrates nationwide that graduating students don't have to view the road after college through just one perspective. That road becomes just more vibrant and promising for those with determination, smarts, and imagination.



John Bernard Albano and ACSAT's Ms. Factor

"It's all about practical application, we teach them about business but it's when they see business in action, especially in entrepreneurship, that everything comes together."

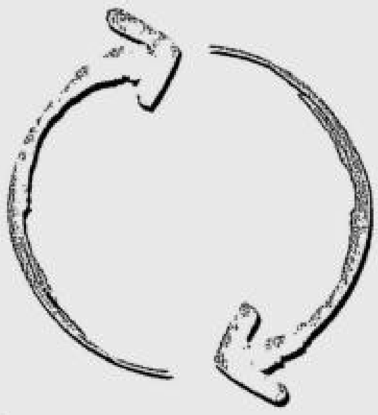
---ACSAT student coordinator John Bernard Albano

Manny on Entrepreneurship

"The challenge for business today, and in the coming years, should by now be obvious: to create corporate cultures that encourage and reward integrity as much as vigorous entrepreneurship."

--Manuel V. Pangilinan
PLDT and SMART Chairman

It's not just about the innovations we bring...



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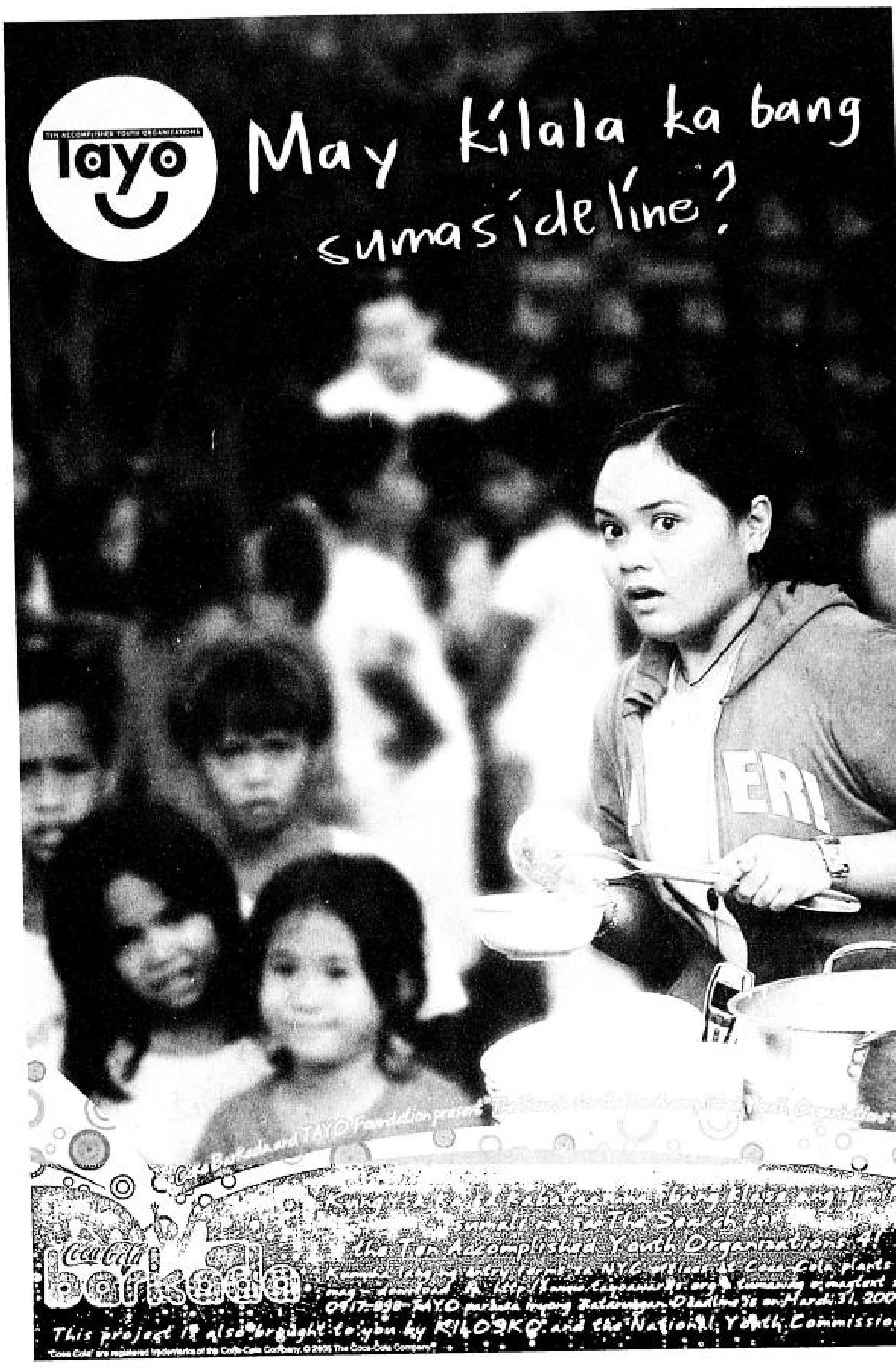
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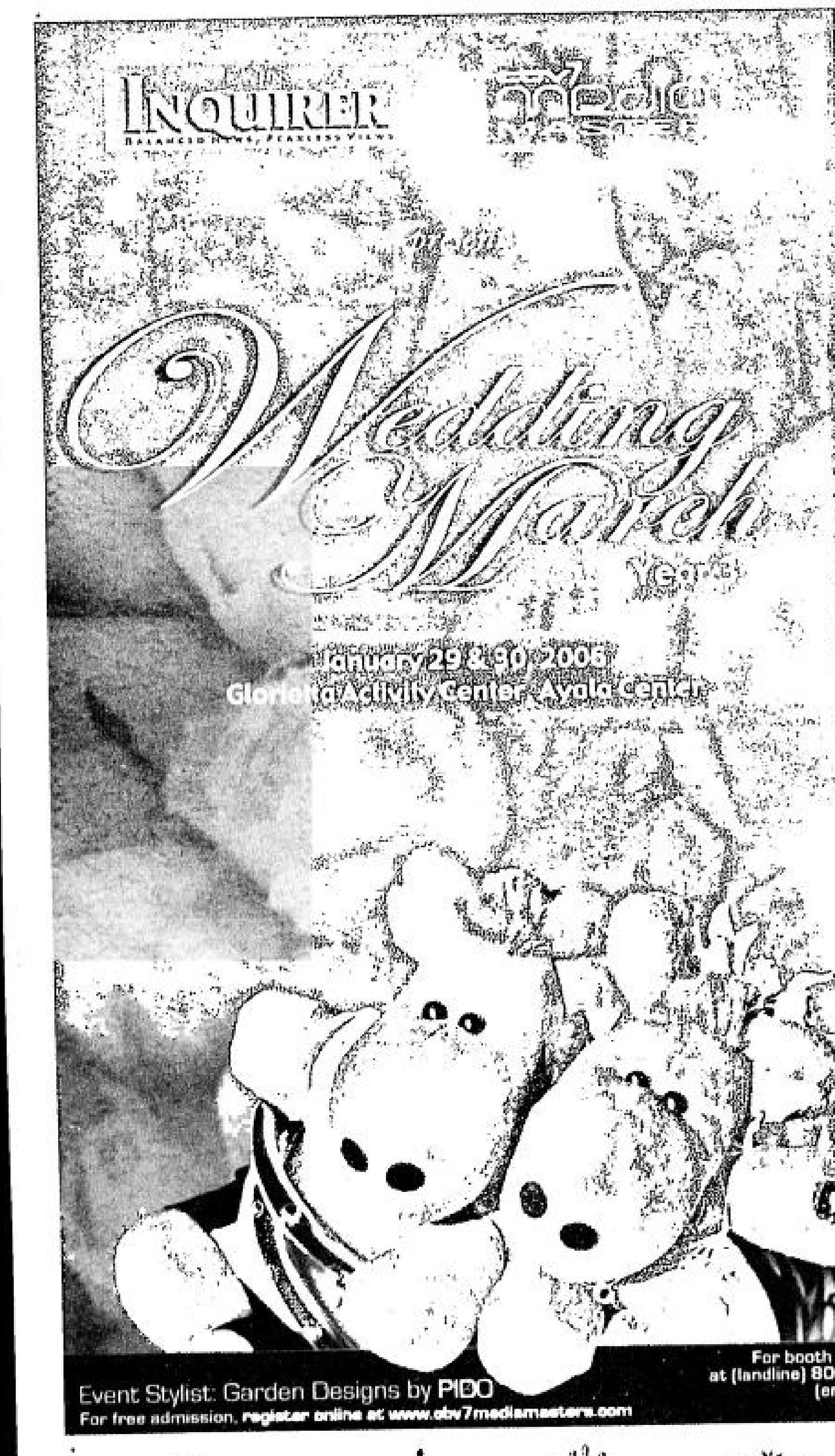
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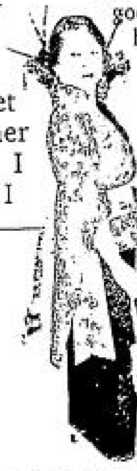
"BAREFOOT in Fire" book launch with the author in blue and members of the Jasms faculty

STUNNING uniforms of the Inagiku Restaurant staff with the Sea Princess

Memoirs of a geisha wannabe

All these years, she has kept her fascination for kimonos and other things Japanese



TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

MY VERY FIRST TRIP abroad was to Japan when I was about 6 or 7. Horsing around in front of a Godzilla-sized Buddha, my brother **Louie** had told me that if I bowed to the stone statue 50 times, I would get my wish. Seeing all the other Japanese visitors bowing, I started bowing like mad so I could go to the toy store and buy one of the pretty, kimono-clad dolls.

All these years, I have kept my fascination for beautifully embroidered kimonos. I once bought a generic version from a Japanese, SM-style department store. The elaborate needlework of kimonos and woven obis vary among the different regions of Japan.

At the newly reopened Inagiku at the Makati Shang, a stunning, fully embroidered kimono is displayed at the entrance, a bright orange welcome into the arresting interiors of the hotel's Japanese restaurant. Chef **Kimito Katogiri** prepared a totally new menu incorporating few of the old favorites. In addition to the main menu, Inagiku has a new sushi chef who prepared a sampler of sushi and sashimi moriawase.

Arriving really late at the opening, I paraded my modern-day kimono, an outfit inspired by creative designer **Peter Lim**, past an acrylic-covered fishpond at the entrance and glass water fountains where guests had a tea ceremony earlier that evening. I missed all that but I was able to tour the restaurant with GM **Jarlath Lynch**, who proudly showed the different private rooms looking into a garden with striking, metal circular sculptures by **Anne Pamintuan**.

The rich wood and metal textures throughout the restaurant are softened by the kimonos and stylized uniforms by design maverick **Rajo Laurel**. He has elevated waiters' uniforms from the boring, bow-tied standards to the Shang levels where every last detail, like hair ornaments, is included in the mix.

Japanese cooking

Simpler than Inagiku, another Japanese restaurant I recommend is Seryna (Tel. 8943855) at the Little Tokyo area across Makati Cinema Square. Owned by Eisaku **Maru** and his Filipina wife **Eva**, the couple is there every night personally attending to guests and Japanese patrons. It's always a good sign when one sees Japanese guests happily eating.

The wood, metal and stone geometric interiors were done by architect **George Yulo**. While enjoying the food, my eyes were so busy scoping the interiors that felt like an authentic, modern place in Shinjuku. Their grilled Wagyu beef is excellent—another reason for me to stay carnivorous.

It's amazing how many Japanese restaurant choices there are in our city. From simple ramen houses to teppanyaki grills to sushi bars to neo-Japanese fusion menus, the options might outnumber Filipino restaurants. One sushi bar at the Fort called Sakae Sushi even has motored boats transporting sushi while you make choices in the monitor in front of you. When I was growing up, Kimpura Restaurant seemed to be the only choice!

Chef to the rescue

My kids have acquired a taste for tempura and *soba* noodles so I told them that we

MEMOIRS/E2

GUESTS of honor at Inagiku, Tony Boy Cojuangco and Gretchen Barretto

REPERTORY Philippines head Joy Virata and Reni Roxas

TAHANAN Books owner Reni Roxas Singer, Tissa Tan, Chatty and Bobby Roxas

SERYNA Restaurant owners Eisaku and Eva Socorro Maku

SHANGRI-LA bosses: GM Jarlath Lynch, CEO Tom Zita and RM Sigi Bierbaumer

MAKATI Shang PR Joy Wassmer, creative uniform designer Rajo Laurel and Tatler editor Anton San Diego

FORMER PM Cesar Virata and artist Cheloy Dans

DESIGNERS at Inagiku opening: Tonichi Nocom, Cesar Gaupo and Mike dela Rosa

AUTHOR Barbara-Ann Gamboa Lewis, daughter Gilita Thomas and twins Cecilla Rose and Christopher Patrick

INQUIRER

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- Dependable and has a solid work ethic
- Attentive and has a keen eye for detail
- Fluent in English and communicates clearly
- Creative and solves problems effectively
- Background in credit card verification is preferred but not required
- Completed at least 2 years of college or its equivalent
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Motivation through TOUCH

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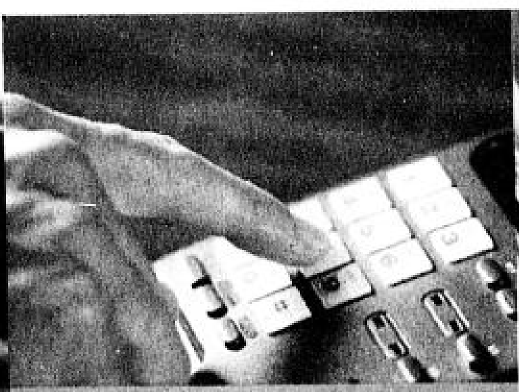

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- Flexible and willing to be assigned to varying work hours
- Excellent customer service skills
- Courteous and able to develop positive rapport with customers
- Dependable and has a solid work ethic
- Attentive and has a keen eye for detail
- Fluent in English and communicates clearly
- Ability to multi-task and to demonstrate problem solving skills
- Sales experience preferred but not required
- Completed at least 2 years of college or its equivalent.
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- Flexible and willing to be assigned to varying work hours
- Courteous and able to develop positive rapport with customers
- Dependable and has a solid work ethic
- Attentive and has a keen eye for detail
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- Excellent customer service skills
- Courteous and able to develop positive rapport with customers
- Dependable and has a solid work ethic
- Attentive and has a keen eye for detail
- Fluent in English and communicates clearly
- Ability to multi task and to demonstrate problem solving skills.
- Completed at least 2 years of college or its equivalent
- 1 year customer service is preferred

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#46 Don Mariano Marcos
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Salcedo St. Legaspi
Village, Makati City

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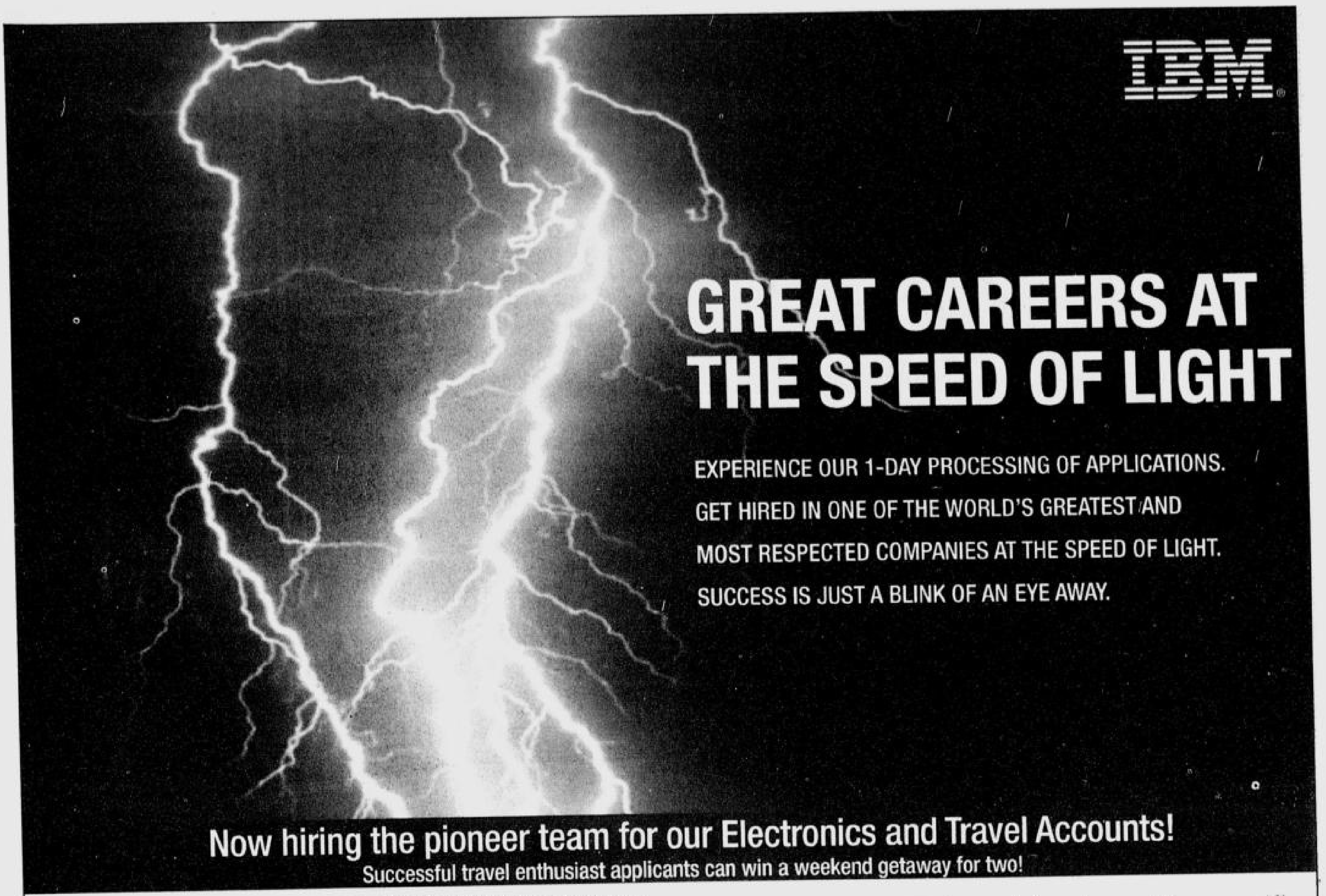

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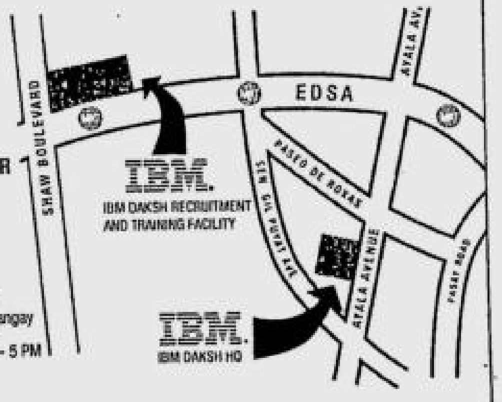

GREENPEACE
Southeast Asia

The Fundraising Department of Greenpeace Southeast Asia is looking for a contractual

Fundraising Assistant

He/she should be:

- Male or female, 22-30 years old.
- A college graduate, fresh graduates are welcome
- Good telemarketing skills with pleasing personality
- Highly organized with efficient in time-management skills
- Knowledgeable in Microsoft applications such as Word, Excel and Access.

Administrative and Fundraising tasks await the qualified candidate.

Interested persons may email their comprehensive resume to **jcruz@ph.greenpeace.org** on or before February 3, 2006.

We are looking for:

MALE OR FEMALE
COLLEGE GRADUATE, (Marketing graduate preferred) not more than 25 years old, Good Moral Character, Computer Literate and proficient in oral and written English.
Please send letter of application with bio-data, transcript of records to:

THE MANAGER
BESTMATCH ENTERPRISES,
26 ORANGE ST., SSS VILLAGE,
MARIKINA CITY
E-mail: cblayco@bestmatch.com.ph

PRODUCT / MARKETING ASSISTANT

- College graduate, male/female
- Good communication skills, must possess an analytical mind to create marketing programs/ strategies

DELIVERY RIDERS

- At least College level
- Of Good Moral Character
- With 2 years experience in motorcycle driving within Metro Manila

Send or E-mail application letter and resumé with a recent Passport size picture to:

IOS Marketing Corporation
646 P. Paterno St., Quiapo, Manila
E-mail: iosmc@yahoo.com

CASAUL GENERAL HOSPITAL

16 Tandang Sora Ave., Sangandaan, Q.C.
OPEN-HOSPITAL accepting applicants in all fields of MEDICAL-SURGICAL specialties contact ELA @ 9387782/89 * 09213576807

Marketing Executive

Required to:

Support Successful Sales Team
Develop sales promotional materials, both general and for special projects,
Organize participation in trade shows,
Manage the sales data programme,
Liaise with customers and suppliers.

Experience and Skills

26 years plus
Degree in marketing, sales or design
Marketing, sales or design experience
Computer literate
Good communications in Tagalog and English
Creative, initiative, lateral thinker

If you have these skills write to:

NORFOLK INTERNATIONAL, INC.
502 ITC Bldg., 337 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City

CHEM SETTER MARKETING CORP.

A direct importer and distributor of Chemicals needs honest, hardworking and highly committed persons to be:

CORPORATE SALES/ MARKETING OFFICERS

☐ a graduate of any 4 year business related course
☐ creative and with excellent communication skills
☐ ability to conduct client prospecting and research
☐ ability to develop client accounts

ACCOUNTING CLERK

☐ Accounting graduate
☐ With experience an advantage but not necessary
☐ Preferably Parañaque resident

Please send or *email* your Bio-data with 1"x1" ID photo to:

CHEM SETTER MARKETING CORP.
Richill Industrial Compound
Melton Espiritu Avenue (Yellow Gate)
Sucat, Parañaque City
Email address: chemset@vasia.com
chemset@tri-isys.com
Telephone Number 820-2433

Höegh Fleet Services Phils., Inc.

(formerly **HFS Philippines., Inc**)

urgently needs the following

Chief Officers
2nd Officers
3rd Officers
Electricians
2nd Engineers
3rd Engineers
4th Engineers
Fitters

for deployment onboard our Pure Car Carrier vessels and Newbuildings with all Filipino crew complement. Attractive benefit package and sailing contract scheme awaits successful candidates.

Interested parties may send their resumé with two pieces recent passport-size photos or visit our office at:

Höegh Fleet Services Phils., Inc. (HFS Philippines Inc.)
4677 Höegh Building Arellano St., Palanan, Makati City
Telephone Number: 5518592
E-mail Address : admin.hfsp@hoegh.com
POEA License No.: 342-SB-111604-R

Be part of a fast-growing, pioneering firm in global real estate eCommerce and GIS technology

We need young people who are analytical, detail and quality oriented, well-organized, with tons of initiative and can work with minimum supervision, for the following positions:

PROGRAMMERS/WEB DEVELOPERS:

- Minimum 6 months experience in Java development & VB
- Experience with Eclipse, WebSphere, DB2 or Lotus preferred
- Experienced in web design and graphics applications

GIS ANALYSTS:

- Experienced with ArcGIS, MapInfo and Manifold
- Minimum 1 year experience in GIS data processing and analysis
- Geodetic Engineer's license preferred, but not necessary
- Research skills will be an advantage
- Willing to accept field assignments

Apply in person, with resume and 2x2 photo, at:

CREBA-GSI, Inc.
2006-B West Tower,
Philippine Stock Exchange Centre
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center,
Pasig City

Or request for an application and email together with your resume to:
gpesquerra.cgi@ecreba.com; bamb@pldtdsl.net

Great jobs, global reach.

TeleTech is a leading global provider of customer management and business process outsourcing solutions. Established in the U.S. 23 years ago, TeleTech is headquartered in Denver, Colorado with a global network that extends across 78 customer management centers in North America, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Latin America. In 2001, TeleTech began operations in the Philippines and since then we have built five centers - Fort Bonifacio, Pasay City, Novaliches and soon to open in Cainta and Dumaguete City. Globally we support over 40,000 employees; more than 4,000 of whom are in the Philippines.

Airline Employee Services Agents

- With at least 6 months of work experience in HR, records keeping, payroll, work scheduling, or other employee services
- Must be highly analytical
- Proven multi-tasking skills with high quality service
- Strong interpersonal and customer service skills
- Willing to work on shift schedules
- Contact center experience preferred
- Ready to work in a highly dynamic company ASAP

Job role: Non-Operational Scheduling, Pay Records and Administration servicing approximately 15,000 US flight attendants worldwide (Approximately 70% back office work and 30% phone related)

We encourage walk-in applications for this position at Building F, SM Corporate Offices,
1000 Bay Boulevard, Bay City, Pasay City (In front of SM Mall Of Asia)

TeleTech.

apply now at
www.HirePoint.com
or call 552.9799

Systems Support Officer
(Oracle HRMS Functional Support)

Responsibilities

The position is responsible for providing high level technical support and assistance to Budget, Personnel and Management Systems Department (BPMSD) in the implementation and management of the Human Resource Management System (HRMS)/Training/Payroll Modules, including website development, HR Online and related database systems; ensuring that the systems and procedures, management and utilization of human resource information are in accordance with the Information Systems and Technology strategies and standards of ADB and meet the needs and requirements of Management and users. This is the key position for information systems-related work in BPMSD, though the position is organizationally located in the Human Resources Division (BPHR). Specific responsibilities include:

Systems Development and Implementation
- Acting as the functional lead for system development definition and approval of automation project plans (PC-based, hardware, servers); monitoring progress, tracking issues, and results; preparing corresponding progress/completion reports.
- Conducting or coordinating user requirement analysis, functional specifications and implementation plans in consultation with Office of Information Systems Technology (OIST)/contractors. This covers Oracle HRMS modules (Core HR, Training, etc.) set-ups, Self Service, workflow, alerts, payroll fast formula, Discoverer reporting tool, custom forms, etc.
- Conducting or coordinating the overall testing of the features and facilities of automated systems prototypes and providing feedback on the changes, corrections and enhancements on the panels, screens, options, tables, and validation features that are required.
- Coordinating with OIST for the work/results for development and/or maintenance of systems used by BPMSD
- Ensuring that the website development, HR Online and related information systems and technology undertakings of BPMSD are well-designed, properly linked or integrated and are within the acceptable standards.

Database Security, Control and Coordination
- Evaluating requests for Oracle HRMS and Personnel Management Information Systems (PMIS) access.
- Recommending grant of password, appropriate authority (update, delete, download, view, add) and levels of access in the database.
- Reviewing/preparing the manual of policies and procedures related to the system (access, contents, utilization, inquiries, use, etc.) and ensuring proper observance and implementation.
- Reviewing and preparing Oracle Tutor (procedures and systems) documentation for BPHR's processes and set-up.
- Overseeing updates of Tutor documentation for other departments/divisions utilizing Oracle applications.
- Acting/responding to suggestions or complaints regarding the system or coordinates requested actions.

Analysis and Evaluation
- Providing assistance in evaluating the adequacy of automated activities in terms of quality and efficiency and interfaces with other databases, and suggesting options for further improving productivity and performance.
- Reviewing proposals for automation from external consultants and/or concerned offices/departments by comparing against set objectives and expected results and submitting findings and recommendations.
- Evaluating impact of system upgrades, development, and suggested workarounds to customized requirements and functionalities.

Statistics/Data Gathering/Information Reports
- Supervising distribution of all regular and defined reports from the system and in coordinating ad hoc report requests.
- Providing assistance and support in the collection of statistics/information, in designing and producing various human resources related reports, listings and summaries on a regular and/or ad hoc basis, and in downloading requests/requirements using Oracle Discoverer or legacy systems.

Technical/Administrative Support
- Providing technical and administrative support to specialized areas of BPHR, for example, by reviewing/updating automated HR processes and procedures, HR/Training data clean-up, system trouble shooting, etc.
- Assisting in completion of special projects/assignments.

Others
- Overseeing the design, development and enhancements for the HR Hotline and related web-based activities
- Participating in the ADB business continuity planning and/or disaster recovery activities, as required.
- Participating in review and development of system requirements of the new HR Strategy.

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the Head, Policy and Recruitment Planning Unit, BPHR.

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include:
- Suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level;
- Bachelor's degree, preferably in computer engineering, industrial engineering, or with major in management, public or business administration or accounting;
- At least five years work experience in same job stream with exposure in managing a team. Experience in preparing draft write-up on system operational procedures, and/or user manuals;
- Understanding of multilateral organizations' information technology strategies and standards and its human resources policies and procedures; and
- Knowledge and proficiency in project management, relevant office technology applications and personnel database systems necessary to the human resources services. Knowledge of Oracle HRMS database and experience in Oracle Discoverer and administration.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting Ref. No. EXT-N005-011(4)-BPHR and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by 3 February 2006.

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

www.adb.org

Asian Development Bank ADB

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www.jobmarketonline.com

MEGALINK

An electronic banking network
is in need of the following:

DATA CENTER STAFF

- *College Graduate preferably Computer Science or any similar course*
- *With knowledge in Unix, Oracle, Networking over TCP/IP, Microsoft applications and Data Communications*
- *Willing to go on Shifts*
- *Reasonably fluent in verbal and written English*

SYSTEMS ANALYST

- *College graduate preferably Computer Science or Management Information System or any similar course*
- *3 years or more experience as Business Analyst and System Analyst*
- *Preferably has experience in banking systems or application*
- *Preferably has some experience leading a group of technical people*

HR ASSISTANT

- *College graduate of Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Behavioral Science or Human Resource*
- *With 2 to 3 years experience in any areas of HR*
- *Must be proficient in MS Office: Word, Excel, Powerpoint*
- *Reasonably fluent in written and verbal English*

CUSTOMER SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVE

- *College graduate of Marketing or Business Management*
- *Excellent written and verbal communication skills*
- *Must be proficient in MS Office: Word, Excel, Powerpoint*

Interested applicants may send their resumés to:

MS. AUDREY CARVAJAL
Human Resource Unit
MegaLink, Inc.
2/F Zeta II Annex Building, 191 Salcedo St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. 892-1046 Fax 812-0606

Or email resumé to:
hrd@megalink.ph

SM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Join the SMDC SALES and MARKETING TEAM

SALES MANAGERS

- With at least 2 years work experience as Sales Manager in the Real Estate Industry
- Excellent communication, leadership and interpersonal skills

Interested applicants are requested to submit personally from January 23, - February 3, 2006 their comprehensive resumes with transcript of academic records and recent 2x2 picture to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
SM Corporate Offices, Building A, 1000 Bay Boulevard
SM Central Business Park, Bay City, Pasay
E-mail: hr@sminvestments.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOB Market

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2006
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3 SECTIONS

JOB *Market* is exclusively for job advertisements.
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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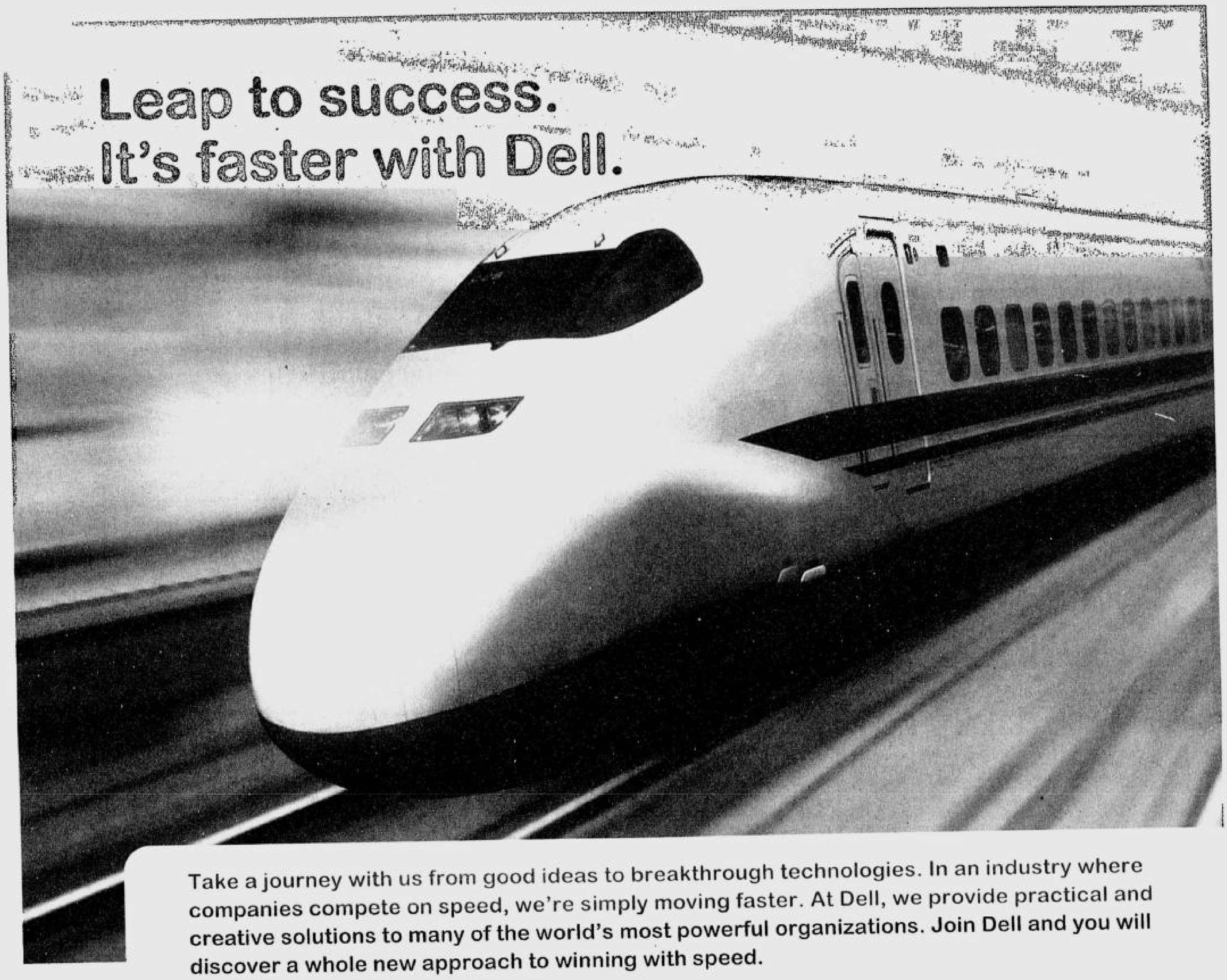

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Dell, America's Most Admired Company, is extending its worldwide network of call centers to Metro Manila. We are hiring more than 200 Technical Support Agents to support our global customers who use Dell products for home entertainment and education.

To apply, visit www.dell.com/manila
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AIG **AIG Credit Card Company Philippines, Inc.**

We are in urgent need of young professionals to be part of our 2006 expansion program:

CALL CENTER ASSOCIATES

To handle customer service and telemarketing functions for our in-house call center·servicing local clients

- College graduate
- **CUSTOMER- FOCUSED** and with **SALES INCLINATION**
- Excellent interpersonal relations and communication skills
- Warm and accommodating, **SERVICE-ORIENTED**
- Committed to excel and succeed
- Willing to work in Ortigas and be assigned primarily in **DAY SHIFTS**
- Computer literate

Join us in our RECRUITMENT OPEN HOUSE!!
January 23 – 25, 2006, 9:00AM to 4:00PM, 2F Salustiana D.Ty Tower, 104 Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village, Makati City

Applications may also be sent at:
Human Resources Division
16F San Miguel Properties Centre, St. Francis Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.
E-mail:
AIGPHCC_Recruitment@aig.com

Competitive compensation package and excellent career opportunities within the company await the successful candidates!

Small US-based company w/ support office in Manila looking for self-starter with college-degree. Fluent English & Tagalog, Spanish a plus. General office/phone/internet skills imperative. Experience in Word & Excel helpful. Salary to P20K based on experience & skills. E-mail resume to ltoszialcita@yahoo.com.

SALES EXECUTIVE ASSISTANCE - With experience in janitorial services

AREA COORDINATOR - Graduate of any course, with experience in janitorial company, computer literate, willing to accept fieldwork, Male 21 yrs. old to 35 yrs. old. **For Parañaque Office.**

HRD STAFF - Graduate of any course, Female 21 yrs. old to 25 yrs. old, computer literate. **For Parañaque Office**

JANITORIAL/MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR - With experience in janitorial/maintenance, **For Manila and San Pedro, Laguna**

JANITOR - High school graduate, **For Manila & Laguna Area**

PRODUCTION WORKER - At least high school graduate, Male or Female 21 yrs. old to 30 yrs. old, **For San Pedro, Laguna**

Interested applicants may submit personally their credential at:

DIMENSIONAL SERVICE CORPORATION
161 AGUIRRE AVE., BF HOMES
PARAÑAQUE CITY
Tel. #826-90-21 to 26
look for **Ms. Nora Dumpit** or **Ms. Inah Gerona**

IMMEDIATELY NEEDED

Mid-level Management
- w/ 5 yrs exp. in call center environment

Executive Secretary
- w/ at least 3 yrs. exp., w/ excellent written and oral communication skills, IT background is a plus

BPO Agents
- w/ 1 yr. exp. in call center industry

Medical Transcriptionists
- w/ at least 1 yr. exp. in transcription and w/ certificate (office based)

Telemarketer
- excellent oral communication skills w/ 2 yrs. exp. in outbound sales

Bookkeepers
- w/ at least 1 yr. exp.

Please call 3952640 or 41 loc 6005 to apply.
Or send resumé to bpogateway@yahoo.com with your picture.

RCBC Savings Bank®
A YGC Member

We are looking for:

ACCOUNT/LOAN OFFICERS

- Must be graduate of a business related course
- Must have 2-3 years related experience in account solicitation of salary, auto & housing loans
- Must have very good communication skills
- Preferably not more than 32 years old and residents from Metro Manila and Pangasinan

CREDIT & COLLECTION OFFICER

- Will be in charge of monitoring the business center's delinquency level; Will be responsible for the timely action on past due accounts and timely submission of quality credit investigation reports for auto, salary and housing loans
- Must be a graduate of a business related course
- Must have very good communication and writing skills
- Must have working knowledge on policies and procedures regarding credit investigation, appraisal, collection and repossession
- Must also have knowledge in the legal aspects of banking and lending
- Must know how to drive and must have a driver's license
- Preferably not more than 35 years old and a resident from Cavite & Batangas

TRAINING OFFICER

- Responsible for the effective design and conduct of training programs based on the annual training needs analysis; Expected to update, research and improve training modules and materials
- Must have basic knowledge in banking and business processes
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills and computer skills
- Must have excellent planning, organization, presentation and facilitating skills
- MUST HAVE 3 YEARS EXPERIENCE in the same capacity and preferably in a banking industry

FIELD CREDIT INVESTIGATORS AND FIELD COLLECTORS

- Must have related experience in credit investigation, appraisal and collection
- Must know how to drive a motor cycle and willing to do field work
- Must have very good oral & written communication skills
- Preferably not more than 28 years old
- Preferably degree holders of any business related course

OTHER POSITIONS:
HR ASSISTANTS, TELLER, NEW ACCOUNTS CLERK, ROVING TELLERS, ACCOUNTING STAFF

Send your application letter, resume, transcript of records, diploma and 2x2 photo on or before February 1, 2006 to:

Position: ____________________
THE RECRUITMENT OFFICER
RCBC Savings Bank
Human Resources Management Division
1806B 18th Floor, West Tower, Tektite Bldg.,
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Email Address: Jchavez@rcbcsavings.com or
gmendoza@rcbcsavings.com

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY.

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iMotive Technology Inc. are looking for the following personnel

2 Full-time .Net Programmers (VB.Net / C#)
3 Project base .Net Programmer
2 Project base Web Developer

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Interested applicant may email their resume at
careers@imotivetechnology.com or mail to :
Suite 501 East Tower Philippine Stock Exchange Centre
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center Pasig, 1600 Philippines

GROW TOGETHER WITH A WORLD CLASS MANUFACTURER

TriQuint Semiconductor, Inc. located in Oregon, United States of America is a leading supplier of high-performance components and modules for communication applications. We strive for diversity in our markets, applications, products, technology, and customer base. Owing to our business expansion program, we seek high caliber and energetic **Filipino professionals** for the following position, which will be based in Laguna, Manila.

SITE RESIDENT MANAGER

Responsibilities /Requirements:

- Representing Triquint Semiconductor at the Amkor sites and other sites in Asia, Managing a small staff in Assembly Engineering, Test Engineering, Production Control, Drop Shipment and Logistics related activities.
- Degree in any Engineering discipline with at least 7 years of high volume manufacturing management experience in PCB based SMT Process Engineering and Product/Testing.
- Good understanding of manufacturing quality management systems and manufacturing operations principles.
- Excellent communication and English language skills, both verbal and written. Ability to lead and develop diverse groups of people at different management/engineering levels.
- A motivator and self starter with high credibility who will assume responsibility for all activities at the Amkor facilities in the Philippines.

Attractive package of remuneration will be offered to qualified and successful candidates. Those interested, please send email attached with full resumé not later than January 27th, 2006 to ateng@tqs.com

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DOME

Dome Café is a chain of outlets in the Philippines, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Dubai and Indonesia offering a wide array of fine foods and gourmet coffees. We set the pace for new standards of experience in operating cafés.

We are looking for aggressive, dynamic, pleasant and service-oriented individuals to fill the following positions:

Café Managers
Coffee Makers
Pastry Chefs
Marketing Supervisors
Kitchen Managers & Staff
Dining Staff & Hostesses
Maintenance Man
Acctg. & Admin Staff

Requirements:
☑ Experience in similar capacity – At least 2 yrs.
☑ HRM/HRD graduates preferred
☑ 18 to 35 years of age

Benefits:
☑ Attractive salary and fringe benefits
☑ Excellent opportunity for career advancement
☑ Cross training in other Dome Café abroad

Interested parties may send their resumé to:

Dome Café
220 Pilar St., Mandaluyong City
or Fax your resumé to 725-8861

ISLAND WIDE FOODS CORP.
Is in need of:

SALES AGENTS
FOR FROZEN MEAT
(CHICKEN MDM CUTTING FAT, PORK LIVER)
1. In charge of strategizing & achieving Sales target Nationwide.
2. Must have previous selling experience of above items to meat processors, supermarkets, wet markets (Chicken MDM, Pork Liver, Cutting Fat etc.)
3. Salary + Commission

SECRETARY
1. Computer Literate
2. Female (below 30 yrs. old)
3. College Graduate

E-mail resumé to: IWFC@tri-leys.com / fax 725-3678
Call Alice 725-7015, 725-7008, 725-5982

ILDAEIL-EDU, INC.
International Education Center

We are a PEZA-registered company located in RCBC Plaza, Makati City. We are pioneers in providing cutting-edge service for English as a Second Language to our clients in Korea. We aim for international standards in our programs, and have full-time positions for applicants who are:

- ✓ **Creative, Hardworking, Results oriented**
- ✓ **Passionate about Teaching**
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We offer:

- ✓ **Competitive Compensation and Benefits**
- ✓ **Subsidized Housing for qualified instructors**
- ✓ **Excellent Working Environment**
- ✓ **Professional & Culture-Sensitive Management**

ONLINE ENGLISH INSTRUCTORS (100)

Responsibilities
- Teaches English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Accomplishes daily reports, lesson plans, extension lessons and narrative progress reports
- Encourages students to high-level thinking (critical/creative/decision-making)
- Participates in training & curriculum development

Requirements
- Preferably female ages 20-35 yrs. old
- Graduate of any 4-year course, preferably Education, English, Literature, Communication Arts
- Excellent English oral and written communication skills
- With an American Accent (an advantage)
- Full-time, with a schedule of 5am–2pm OR 2pm–11pm

Email resumé to **recruitment.ildaeil@yahoo.com** (text only) or drop off resumés at the 26th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City Tel No. 8451026 / 8451040
www.callstudy.co.kr www.i-bizacademy.com www..themeschool.com

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Wanted for Employment
20-YEAR ENGINEERING FIRM NEEDS FOR EXPANSION

SECRETARY-RECEPTIONIST
- Personable and good communication skills, college graduate
- Conscientious and flexible
- Proficient in MS word, excel, internet
- Starting salary P8-10 thousand depending on qualification

OFFICE IT SPECIALIST, FEMALE
- Strong in office software, MS office, data base, will be in charge of evaluating, adopting and maintaining office IT systems like word processing, database mgmt, CRM, multi-branch web-base communications and systems maintenance
- Will have a computer hardware technician as assistant
- Starting salary P10-15 thousand depending on qualification

IGN POWER
15th Flr., Belvedere Tower 15 San Miguel Ave.
(beside Richmonde Hotel) Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Alternatively, fax to 637-6415 attn: Projects Director
or email to: info@ignphils.com

GROWING GRAPHICS COMPANY IS IN NEED OF . . .

TYPESETTERS With at least 3 yeras experience in Desktop Publishing and in-depth knowledge of QuarkXPress and/or InDesign. Must have the ability to paginate complex 4-color books and journals. Knowledge of Macintosh helpful.

QUALITY CONTROL STAFF With at least 3 years experience. Must have the ability to interpret and understand complex book and journal specifications.

GRAPHIC ARTIST With in-depth knowledge of Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator; knowledge of QuarkXpress will be an advantage.

Qualified applicants will receive above average salary and excellent benefits. Please send Resumé to circle@globenet.com.ph.

CALL CENTER AGENTS

At least second year college / graduate of any course; eighteen (18) years old and above; ability to effectively communicate in English; willing to work in various shifts including graveyard shift

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES

Must possess at least a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Technology,or its equivalent; technical background is an advantage

CLIENT SERVICE MANAGER

Two (2) – three (3) years in a call center; should have excellent presentation skills; Detailed-oriented; team player

ASSISTANT CALL CENTER MANAGER

ACCM level / comparative to current or previous experience; One (1) year of customer service experience; has strong background in computer applications; outgoing/ friendly/ mature; active listening skills; strong motivational skills

TRAINERS

Excellent presentation skills; strong technical background is a must; call center experience is an advantage; team-oriented and able to work in a fast-paced environment

QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISORS

One (1) year supervisory experience in a call center environment; experience as a quality assurance supervisor / analyst is an advantage

SUPERVISORS / TEAM LEADERS

At least six (6) months in customer service in a call center; technical experience is a plus; outgoing, friendly and mature; strong motivational skills

QUALITY ASSURANCE ANALYSTS

Must have at least six (6) months call center experience; must demonstrate honesty, reliability, ability to follow Corporate QA directives and strong attention to details

MISSION CONTROL ANALYSTS

Must have at least six (6) months customer service experience; one (1) year call center experience; ability to work under pressure, meet deadlines and be accountable for the performance of others; demonstrated leadership skills, dependability and initiative; flexible schedule

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
DATA ANALYST

At least (6) months administrative assistant experience in a fast-paced environment; excellent skills in Microsoft word, excel, powerpoint, project and outlook; internet savvy; excellent organizational and communication skills; excellent time management skills; ability to prioritize and complete multi-task assignments; strong attention to detail

BE ALL THAT YOU CAN BE...

All positions require excellent verbal and written communication skills and knowledge in Microsoft Office and Internet Explorer

RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT

Level 3 MS303 EDSA Central Pavilion
Mandaluyong City

Interested applicants may bring the following requirements:
Updated resume
2 pcs of 2 x 2 picture
6 pcs of 1 x 1 picture

Monday - Friday 8AM to 5PM

Hotline: (02) 637-7111 local 301 & 302

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careers@teleperformance.ph
(include the position desired in the subject field)

Teleperformance
GLOBAL CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT

AMVEL LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING

MARKETING MANAGER

Preferably with MBA degree, not more than 45 years old, 20 years total experience in Marketing Management or at least 10 years experience in the real estate sales and marketing, with local and international sales exposure. Excellent in verbal and written communication skills. With leadership abilities and training skills.

LIAISON & DOCUMENTATION STAFF

College graduate, not more than 30 years old, with at least five(5) years work experience, preferably in the real estate industry and property development. Excellent oral and written communication skills, organized and results oriented. Must have knowledge of computer and application software.

SALES / CUSTOMER RELATIONS STAFF

College graduate, not more than 30 years old, with at least five (5) years work experience in sales or customer service, preferably in the real estate industry and property development. Exceptional customer service skills and must be excellent in oral and written communication skills. Must have knowledge of computer and application software.

SALES SPECIALIST

College graduate, not more than 30 years old, with at least five (5) years work experience in marketing and sales, preferably in the real estate industry and property development. Exceptional customer service skills and must be excellent in oral and written communication skills. Goal oriented, able to do inbound and outbound telemarketing and must have knowledge of computer and application software.

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- Excellent communication and presentation skills. Proficient with MS Office applications.
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- Male, B.S. Mechanical Engineering graduate.
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- Male/Female, B.S. Psychology or Behavioral Sciences graduate.
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- Male/Female, Advertising, Marketing or Communications graduate.
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- Male, Engineering, Marketing or Communications graduate.
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- Results oriented, team player and trustworthy.

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- Results oriented, team player and trustworthy.

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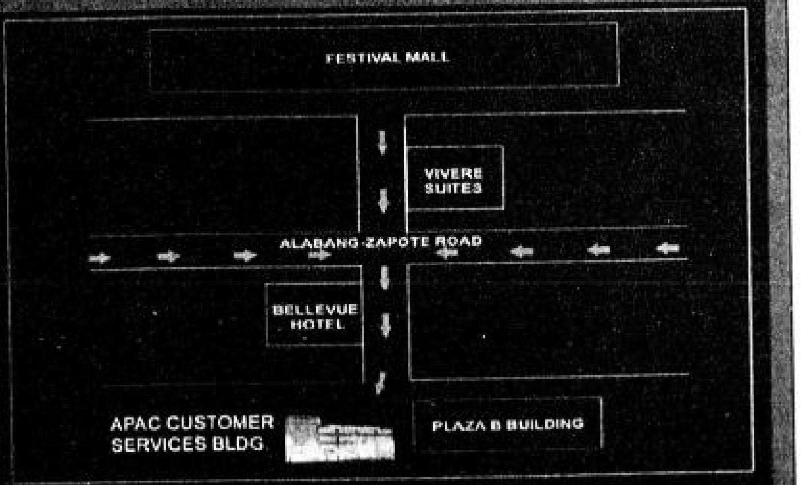
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JOB Market

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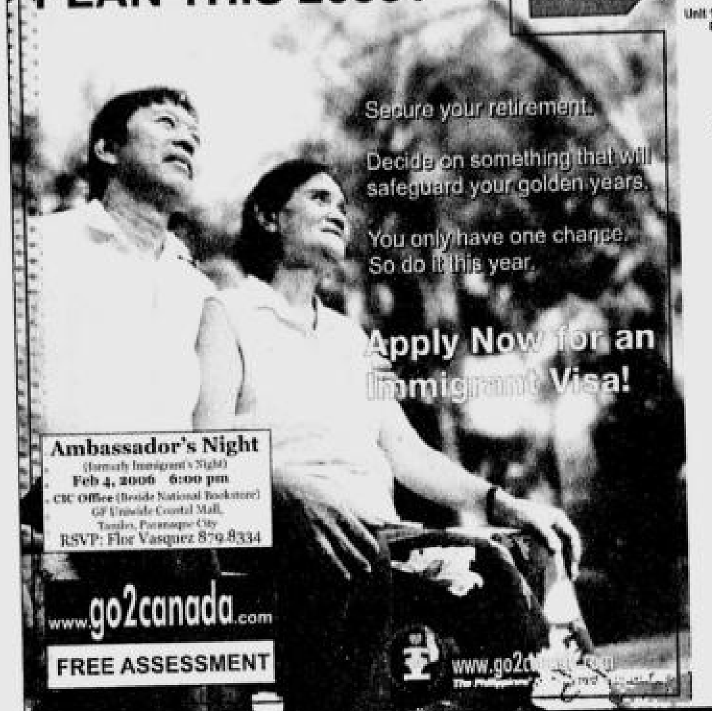
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- **Baclaran - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM** - See contact details above.
- **Cubao - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM** - See contact details above.
- **Malate - Mondays to Saturdays @ 10AM & 2PM** - See contact details above.
- **Makati City - Monday to Thursday @ 8AM - 9PM** - See contact details above.
- **Robinson's Galleria - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM** - See contact details above.
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- **NAGA CITY - Wed @ 10AM, 2PM & 5PM / Sat @ 10AM & 2PM** - See contact details above.
- **DAGUPAN CITY - Daily @ 10AM & 2PM** - FREE Seminar & Assessment - See contact details above
- **January 22 - DAGUPAN CITY @ 2pm** - Star Plaza Hotel, A.B. Fernandez Avenue Dagupan City [Call Front Desk 523-4088 | Ms. Gold 0916.7496320 / (02) 879-0217
- **January 28 - NAGA office @ 10am & 2pm (FREE SEMINAR)** - See contact details above [Speaker: Ms. Flor Vasquez]
- **January 28 - MALOLOS CITY, BULACAN @9AM** - Hiyas Convention Center, Capitol Cmpd. Malolos City [Call Alico (02) 879-0308 / Linda (044) 794 1511 / 0910 353-0402]
- **January 28 - ILAGAN, ISABELA @ 2pm** - Marjs Hotel, San Vicente, Ilagan Isabela [Call Mrs. Baby Noyra 0917 574-2587 | Ms. Gold 0916 7496320 / (02) 879-0217
- **January 28 - LAOAG CITY @10AM (FREE)** - La Elliana Hotel Rizal St. cor Ablan Ave., Ilocos Norte [Call Ms Josie (077) 771- 4876 | Ms Beng 0919 355-9511 | Ms Susan 0919.353-9491]
- **January 28 & 29 - SM LUCENTA CITY (FREE) @ 10AM & 2PM** - 3rd Floor-Bazaar Area SM Lucena City [Call Jennet (02) 879-8209 / 0919 353-1110 | Emily (02) 879 0311 / 0916 651-7801]
- **January 29 - URDANETA, PANGASINAN @2PM** - Majoha Hotel & Rest. Mc. Arthur Highway, Nancayasan, Urdaneta City [Call Baby/Sidney Magingue (075) 568-2640 / 0919.748-4538 / (075) 568-6588 / (02) 879-0301]
- **January 29 - SANTIAGO, ISABELA @ 10AM** - King George Hotel, Bonifacio Ave. Cor Maharlika Highway, Victory Norte Santiago City [Call Front Desk (078) 682 5508 | Gold (02) 879.0217 / 0916.749 6320]
- **January 29 - VIGAN, ILOCOS SUR @ 10AM (FREE SEMINAR)** - Aniceto Mansion, #1 Mena Crisologo St. Vigan Ilocos Sur [Call Ms Gemma (077) 722-2383 | Ms Susan 0919 353-9491 | Ms Beng 0919 3559511]
- **February 4 CABANATUAN CITY @9AM** - Hotel Monrio, Maharlika Hi-way, Cabanatuan City [Call Josie delos Santos (044) 463-0814 | Susan (02) 879-0313/0919.353-9491 | Emily (02)879-0311/0916 651-7801]

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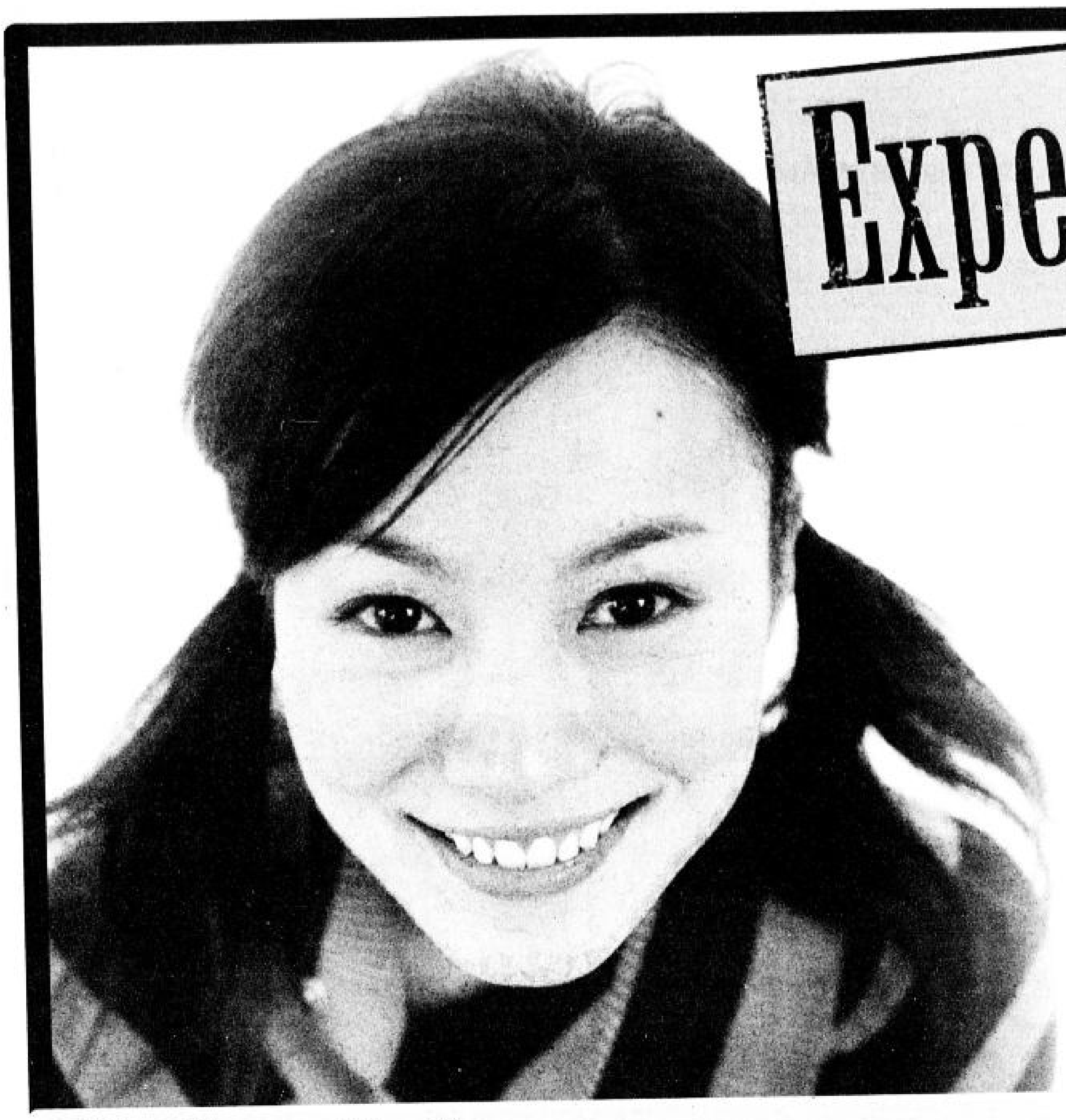

Agent Opportunities:

- Technical Support Representatives
- Customer Service Representatives
- Teleservices Representatives
- Bilingual Agents (Spanish/English)

Professional Opportunities:

- Systems Technician
- Sr. Systems Technician
- Programmer Analysts

Apply Now:

West Contact Services, Inc. • 28/F Exportbank Plaza
Don Chino Roces cor Sen. Gil Puyat, Makati

Phone: 857-7400 • Fax: 857-7431/32
Email: MakatiJobs@west.com

Why Choose West?

- Competitive pay
- Choose your own schedule; flexible full- and part-time opportunities
- Excellent advancement opportunities
- Fun work environment

Guaranteed base wage increases every six months for agent positions!

Get connected to a global organization with a career at West Contact Services, Inc. We are a subsidiary of US-based West Corporation with several contact centers located throughout North America, Europe and Asia and are looking for dynamic, self-motivated individuals who demand results. **Apply today.**

Excellent English oral and written communication skills required.

west®

westemployment.com

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Take the challenge of joining a dynamic educational institution commited to excellence!
We are looking for faculty and staff who are commited to developing learners to become movers of society.

COLLEGE FACULTY

- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Preferably with MA degree or units
- With specialization for courses in BS Tourism, BSI.T., AB Media Arts, Business Administration, Psychology and Filipino

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE FACULTY

- Preferably with training from the International Baccalaureate Organization
- With a degree in Chemistry, Spanish, English and Visual Arts

TEACHERS (For Basic Education)

- Preferably BEEd or BSEd graduate with specialization in Math, Filipino, History, English, Reading, English as Second Language (ESL), Chemistry, Science, Home Economics or any related course
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Preferably with at least 1-yr teaching experience
- Preferably with PRC (LET) License

CHINESE TEACHER

- Graduate of any 4-yr course
- Well versed in oral and written Pin Yin or Mandarin
- Can communicate in English

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS and PSYCHOMETRICIAN

- Graduate of AB/ BS Psychology
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Preferably with at least 1-yr work experience

CLINICAL INSTRUCTORS

- With MAN degree or units
- Preferably with at least 1-yr teaching work/ nursing experience
- With excellent oral and written communication skills

MARKETING COORDINATOR

- Graduate of any business, mass communications or marketing course
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- With pleasing personality
- With related work experience
- Can work well under pressure

MARKETING/ PR STAFF

- Graduate of any business, mass communications or marketing course
- With excellent oral and written communications skills
- With pleasing personality
- Can work well under pressure

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT STAFF

- Graduate of any business related course
- Knowledgeable in managing inventories
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Proficient in computer applications

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

- Graduate of any 4-yr course in Computer, Marketing or Communication
- With excellent oral and written communication skills

COACH / ASSISTANT SPORTS COACH

For basketball, volleyball, soccer, badminton and futsal

S.I.S.C. offers a good compensation and benefits package.
We guarantee your continued professional and personal growth.

Qualified applicants are requested to come on January 28, February 8 or 11, 2005 at 8:00am for evaluation. Bring curriculum vitae, transcript of records and recent 2x2 photo to Human Resource Office, Southville International School and Colleges, 1281 Tropical cor. Luxembourg St., BF International, Las Piñas City. Tel. Nos. (02) 8200935 or 8200973 loc 106/164 or e-mail us at ami.salangui1@gmail.com

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Kimberly-Clark

Kimberly-Clark is one of Fortune's top 150 manufacturer and distributor of Personal Care, Consumer, KC Professional and Health Care products. The company's well-known and market-leading Consumer Products brands include Huggies, Pull-Ups, Kimbies, Kotex, Depend, Kleenex, Delsey, and Scott.

We are a $14 Billion, 137 year-old company with a culture that inspires creativity and innovation. We strive to be the best in terms of people, products and return to shareholders.

Due to continued growth and business expansion, we have the following job opportunity :

MIS ANALYST

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in related fields
- Minimum 2 years of experience in BPCS is required
- Knowledge of RPG/CL Programming is an advantage
- Excellent English skills, both written and speaking is required
- Minimum TOEIC score at 800
- Knowledge of COGNOS & Visual Basic knowledge an advantage
- Willing to be based in Bangkok, Thailand

Please email your resumé in English, stating full qualifications, job experience TOEIC score, and expected salary to :

Application.Service@kcc.com or to : Ccastill@kcc.com

TESORO'S

Since 1945
THE HOME OF THE BEST PHILIPPINE HANDICRAFTS

Is looking for dynamic individuals to fill the positions of

MERCHANDISING ASSISTANT

Requirements:

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Business Studies/ Administration/Management, Sales & Marketing or equivalent
- At least one year working experience in the related field is required for this position
- Must be analytical, results-oriented, creative and with a good fashion sense
- Ability to multi-task

ACCOUNTANT / BOOKKEEPER

Requirements:

- Graduate of BS Accountancy course from a reputable university or college
- Knowledgeable of all accounting procedures and system
- Has excellent computer skills in MS Excel
- Male or Female, personable and has good command of the English language

Send your resumé to:
Instyle Apparel, Inc.
2F Tesoro Building, 1016 Arnaiz Ave., Makati 1223

Please indicate in your resume the position you're applying for.

HANDS ON MANILA
FOUNDATION, INC

When asked who among the Filipinos were ready to make a difference...
We raised our hand!

We are a non-profit organization that creates innovative and diverse volunteer opportunities that support various causes including children welfare, environment, women issues, education, and housing in Metro Manila. We are urgently looking for an

Executive Director

who will take the lead and oversee the overall management of a dynamic team. Applicants must have strong leadership qualities, finance and management background, excellent communication skills, and extensive experience in the non-profit community.

Submit resumé with photo on or before **February 3, 2006** to the Executive Director, Hands On Manila Foundation, Inc., Medical Plaza Building, Amorsolo cor. Dela Rosa Sts, Legaspi Village, 1229, Makati City or email to homla@info.com.ph for detailed job description.

KYR Int'l. Manpower Services
Unit 7, 3rd Flr. A. Francisco Gold Condominium
784 EDSA, Quezon City, Tel. No. 435-65-70
kyrintl@yahoo.com
POEA 109-LB-051603

AUTOMAC (B) MARINE SERVICES SDN BHD Brunei, Darussalam

1. **QUANTITY SURVEYOR(s)** – experienced in taking off quantities from tender drawings.
2. **PROCUREMENT MANAGER (Lady)** – Familiarity with full range of building products.
3. **PLANNING ENGINEER** – Familiar with various planning software products including Microsoft Project, Primavera, preparation of material, labour, equipment project planning, tracking planned vs. actual progress.
4. **WELDER** – Knowledge in 6G / 6GR
5. **MARKER/FITTER** – 7" gas line experience. Knows how to read drawings.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH – TRIPOLI LIBYA

NURSES – **Qualification**: male or female, not more than 52 years old, must have a minimum 2 years experience in their respective field.

FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY. NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED. BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS

Energizer

Energizer Philippines Inc., an affiliate of Energizer Holdings, Inc., one of the world's largest manufacturers of dry cell batteries (Energizer/Eveready brands) and flashlights; maker of Schick blades and razors, is in need of:

SALES SUPERVISORS

- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old;
- Graduate of a 4-year business or related course;
- Team player with above average analytical, verbal and written communication skills;
- With two to three years solid experience in Field Sales (Distributor/ Direct Accounts) in a fast moving consumer goods or major distribution company;
- Strong business orientation and ethics
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines;
- Computer proficient.

Successful candidate/s shall receive a competitive salary package with guaranteed bonuses plus benefits including a company car.

Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resumé and ID photo via email not later than **January 31, 2006** to:

EPI-HCRG@Energizer.com

Pls. indicate in subject line: ***Energizer Sales Supervisor Jan 06.*** Only qualified applicants will be contacted. Previous applicants need not apply.

EVEREADY Schick

CLEARPACK PHILIPPINES INC.

Clearpack is a multinational company with head office in Singapore & other branches in South East Asia, Middle East, etc. apart from the Philippines office. We are the leading suppliers of packaging equipment & solutions in the region.

Clearpack Philippines Inc. is urgently looking for aggressive professionals to fit the following positions:

Accounting Manager / Junior Accountant
Service Engineer/s
Sales Engineer/s

1. Preferably with at least 3-5 years experience in packaging / industrial machinery.
2. Self-motivated, with initiative and able to work independently with minimal supervision.

We offer attractive salary, allowance & other fringe benefits commensurate with experience & qualification. We also provide overseas training opportunities.

Interested applicants may send in their resumé through e-mail: **jobp@clearpack.com** or via post mail to:

Clearpack Philippines Inc.
G/F 195 Doña Soledad Ave. Extn.
Betterliving Subd., Parañaque 1711 Manila

A dynamic contact center is in urgent need of the following for immediate employment

CUSTOMER CARE REPS/ TELEMARKETERS

Female, with neutral accent, must have at least 6 months of experience in outbound sales, willing to work from 9:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m. Starting salary 14,000.00/month plus generous benefits, commissions, etc. Those without sales experience need not apply.

TRAINER (M/F)

Contract or full time work with experience in training call center agents

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION EDITORS

Must have at least 1 year experience as an ME in handling multi-specialty accounts

TRANSCOMUNICARE International Inc.

Please email your resumé to:

TRANSCOMUNICARE
INTERNATIONAL INC.
trans_comunicare_intl@yahoo.com

We are a **News Magazine** company looking for top caliber:

CHIEF EDITOR
ASSISTANT EDITOR
GRAPHICS/LAYOUT ARTIST

Please email your Application Letter, Resumé and Sample works to pinoy_minds2006@yahoo.com

Schedule of Interview will be on **January 23, 25 & 26 @ 9:00 a.m.** at the lobby of **Orchid Garden Hotel** #620 Pablo Ocampo Sr. Street, Malate, Manila

For interview appointment text **0906-3332292**

WANTED
SALES ENGINEER

- College graduate with at least two (2) years experience
- Good oral and written communication skills, good oriented, and knowledge on construction equipment
- Position requires significant field work and applicant with own car is an advantage

Apply with bio-data, NBI Clearance and picture at:

Manitowoc Crane Group Inc. Office
GF Southwest Center Bldg. cor. Makiling St.,
SShiway, Palanan, Makati City
Tel. No. 8449437 to 40

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myAyala
www.myAyala.com

Job Openings at myAyala CCSS

myAyala.com, Inc., a member of the **Ayala Group of Companies**, has established a new business unit: **Contact Center Solutions & Services.** The mission of **myAyala CCSS** is to market, install, and support predictive dialer systems for call centers. We are looking for bright, talented, & industrious individuals who would like to join our team and participate in the exciting field of Contact Centers, now emerging as a vibrant industry in the Philippines. Not just your typical call center job, this is an opportunity to be involved in the growth of companies and enabling their IT systems to become world-class by providing the tools and systems necessary to make these centers operate more productively.

We are looking for the following:

Operations Supervisor

- Bachelor's Degree required (Engineering, preferably ECE/EE/CoE/MIS/CS; or Business Management or related course with strong IT operations experience)
- must have 3-5 years experience in IT and Operations (Call Center preferred)
- excellent written and oral communication skills, adaptable, versatile, quick learner, self-motivated, excellent client and customer relationship skills
- able to manage teams of engineers doing technical support on multiple shifts (night and day, 24x7)
- strong technical background (networking, telephony & telecommunications, call center IT, VOIP, Voice & data infrastructure, MS Office and Visio) with operations experience preferred
- experience with predictive dialer systems, IT/Telephony system analysis and design, database (FoxPro, SQL), programming (ASP, VB), trouble-shooting, problem-solving skills, and project management a definite plus
- must also possess some understanding of sales/commercial considerations, supplier-side coordination and purchasing, as well as finance processes and requirements

Technical Support Engineer

- Bachelor's Degree preferred (Engineering, preferably ECE/EE/CoE/MIS/CS)
- 1-3 years experience in Telephony/IT systems (Call Center preferred)
- good communication skills, adaptable, versatile, quick learner, disciplined, familiar with documentation of support activities
- strong technical background (networking, telephony & telecommunications, call center IT, VOIP, IVR, TPV, voice & data infrastructure, MS Office and Visio)
- experience with predictive dialer systems, IT/Telephony system analysis and design, programming (ASP, VB), database (FoxPro, SQL) a definite plus
- willing to work night shifts, or variable depending on client need; willing to travel to and from HQ and client site for installations or on-call support
- must be able to translate business needs of clients into technical recommendations, using IT/Telephony network design and equipment
- good at problem-solving, trouble-shooting, analysis and proposing solution on various support issues, assisting customers and prospective clients with reasonably good customer relationship skills

Please send your resumés to platon.roy@myayala.com and tosoc.gigi@myayala.com or fax to **752-5279 or 813-2414** and address to **Mr. Roy Platon, Director for Infrastructure & Services, myAyala CCSS; and Ms. Gigi Tosoc, HR & Admin Specialist, myAyala.com, Inc.** Kindly indicate the position you are applying for in the subject heading, and please include employment references.

Mc Graw Hill Education

McGraw-Hill Education (Asia),
the global leader
in professional publishing for
business, government,
industry and medical markets
invites suitable candidates
for the following position:

MARKETING EXECUTIVES

The above position will report to the General Manager. The successful Candidates will be responsible for the marketing and promotion of higher education, school and medical titles.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Business or Business-related graduates with minimum 2 years sales/marketing experience
- Fluent in English with good oral and written skills
- Proficient in MS Office
- Has initiative and able to work under minimum supervision
- Aggressive and able to work under pressure
- Highly motivated, self starter and a team player
- Ability and flexibility required to work hours to suit operational requirements
- With valid driver's license

BENEFITS:

We offer an attractive remuneration and benefits package including training, overseas conference trips and opportunities to grow with the company.

All applicants will be treated in strictest confidence. Only shortlisted applicants will be notified. Please submit your resumé with recent 2x2 colored photo along with your salary history and expectation before January 31, 2006 to:

The General Manager
McGraw-Hill IEI (Phils.)
Unit 1503 Jollibee Plaza Condominium
Emerald Avenue corner Ruby Street
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
E-mail: mghphils@mcgraw-hill.com.ph
Website: www.mcgraw-hill.com

Please do not hand-carry your application.
Walk-in applicants will not be entertained.

GLOBALINSURE

WE ARE **EXPANDING ...**

One of the leading distributor of travel and assistance services needs qualified individuals for the following positions:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Male or female at least 21 years old, graduate of a four-year college course. Experience in the travel industry is an advantage but not a requirement.

CLAIMS ASSISTANTS

Male or female at least 21 years old, medical arts graduate, willing to work on shifts.

SEND YOUR APPLICATION LETTER (indicating desired position), A COPY OF YOUR TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND TWO (2) 2x2 PICTURES TO:

GLOBAL*INSURE* I.A. INC.
Suite 1888 The Pearlbank Centre 146 Valero St. Salcedo Village Makati City
(look for Gina or Tin-tin)
Tel. No.: 892-79-22

ABOVE AVERAGE COMPENSATION PACKAGE AWAITS THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS. ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES WILL BE ENTITLED TO PRODUCTION BONUSES, ALLOWANCES & VARIOUS INCENTIVES ON TOP OF THE BASIC SALARY

CONTINUUM TECHNOLOGY CORP.

A leading distributor for Point-of-Sale and IT products is in need of:

SR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- Female/Male, 25 to 30 years old
- BSBA/Computer Science/Marketing/Masscom graduate
- At least 2 years supervisory experience
- With 3 to 6 years work experiences
- Adept in both sales & marketing functions
- Excellent presentation skills/written communication
- With pleasing personality, trustworthy
- Proficient in word, excel, powerpoint
- Must know how to compute

Send resumés to:
hrd@continuum.com.ph
or fax to **736-3168 to 70** or mail to:
#532 Tomas Mapua St., Sta. Cruz, Manila

NGO Forum on ADB

JOB DESCRIPTION:

INFORMATION and COMMUNICATION OFFICER

NGO Forum on ADB (FORUM) is an Asian-led network of Civil Society Organizations involve in the monitoring of the Asian Development Bank. FORUM does not accept money from the ADB. The FORUM Secretariat is located at Quezon City is now looking for a dynamic person for the post of Information and Communication Officer.

The role of the Information and Communication Officer is to provide information to Forum network members of its on-going campaigns and to implement Forums Media strategy. He/She shall closely work with the Research and Publication Coordinator to maintain regular FORUM publications, research, list-serve and website.

Main Responsibilities:

- To provide information to Forum network members regarding the on-going project and policy campaigns of the network.
- To maintain close relationship with the ADB Media Center, and Information Division, and to be vigilant on the ADB projects, policy reviews etc.,
- To develop and maintain an Early Warning System.
- To produce articles and other Forum reading material such as Briefing papers and Guidebooks etc.
- To edit and layout all articles written by Forum Secretariat.
- To have close working ties with the local and international media and implement the FORUM's media strategy.
- To update the FORUM website.
- To do research work to be assigned by the Forum Secretariat and
- To coordinate with IFI Watchnet.

Qualifications:

Required:

- Familiarity with multi-lateral institutions especially the Asian Development Bank
- Experience with editing and lay-outing publications
- Experience in designing websites
- 2 - 3 years work experience related to development work
- Bachelor's degree in the relevant field or equivalent educational qualifications
- Strong communications and writing skills
- Strong self-motivation
- Oral and written fluency in English
- Ability to handle multiple tasks, function with minimum supervision and adhere to close deadlines

Preferred:

- Experience working with NGO networks or social movements
- Familiarity with Asian issues and NGOs

Deadline: January 31, 2006

Starting Date: February 15, 2006

Applications:

To apply, please send a cover letter, CV, articles and layout sample to Ms. Charity P. Cantillo-dela Torre, Administrative and Finance Coordinator at lcantillo@forum-adb.org with the word "Application" in the subject line.

SALES SUPERVISOR

- Male/Female, age not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of any 4 year course
- At least 2 years experience in a fast moving consumer goods
- Good negotiating and excellent analytical skills
- Results oriented, excellent, creative and strategic thinker
- Must possess written and oral communication skills

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- Male/Female, 21-28 years of age
- Graduate of any 4 year course
- At least 2-3 years experience in Consumer Products
- Must be familiar with the Basic Call procedures

Submit Resumé, ID picture,
Transcript of Records and apply at:

Rm 1722 Tytana Plaza Center,
Plaza Lorenzo Ruiz,
Binondo, Manila

GLOBAL DESTINY

Destiny Cable, Inc. is looking for top caliber individuals. As we continue to expand our coverage areas and give quality service, we need competent individuals who believe that they have the ability to contribute to the company's growth and success.

AIRTIME SALES REPRESENTATIVES (Cable TV Advertising)

M/F, Preferably single and 21 to 25 years old. Graduates of Marketing, MassComm., Management or any business-related course from reputable schools. Exceptional communication & selling skills, with pleasing personality, HARDWORKER, sales-oriented, flexible and willing to work long hours. Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.

SALES REPRESENTATIVES (Cable TV Subscription-Sucat and Manila)

M/F, 18 yrs. old and above. College graduates/undergraduates. Must be aggressive, hardworking, SALES-DRIVEN and HONEST. Commissions-based. Former OCW's are also welcome to apply.

Competitive compensation package and commission scheme awaits qualified applicants!

Interested applicants may bring their comprehensive resumé, Transcript of Records with latest 2 x 2 picture to:

GLOBAL DESTINY CABLE TV
2/F Solid House Building, 2285 Pasong Tamo Extension
Makati City

E-mail Address: karen_h@mydestiny.net / ml_delgado@mydestiny.net
Or you may call 810.2828 local 118 for more info.

IMMEDIATE HIRING

COMPUTER SYSTEM SUPPORT (Female)

- Either Computer Engineering or Computer Science Course Graduate.
- Proficient in PC / Hardware Trouble shooting, Software Installation and Networking is an advantage.
- Proficient in MS Office Application such as Power Point, Word, Excel and others.
- Able to relate with customers with courtesy and can develop good rapport.
- Able to solve problems analytically, creatively and effectively.
- Has a good oral and written communication skill.
- Willing to assist client and work on extended hours during weekends and Holidays or as needed.
- Dedicated and TEAM player & can handle pressure.

STORE MANAGERS (Female)

- BS Management Graduate or any related course with or without salon experience.
- Has an excellent oral and written communication skill in English and Tagalog.
- Able to relate with customers with courtesy and can develop good rapport with co-employees.
- With pleasing personality.
- Preferably with experience in fastfood chains.
- Dedicated and TEAM player & can handle pressure.
- Computer literate and willing to assist client and work on extended hours during weekends and Holidays or as needed.

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- Must be an Accounting graduate
- 22-30 years old pref. w/ experience in gov't reports such as SSS, Philhealth & BIR.
- Willing to be trained & can work under pressure.

RECEPTIONISTS (Female)

- College Level Graduate.
- Has a good oral and written communication skill.
- With pleasing personality.
- Able to relate with customers with courtesy.
- Computer literate.

Interested qualified applicants may send their resume at:
Unit 1501, West Trade Center, 132 West Avenue, 1100 Quezon City.
Tel. Nos. 374-7149 to 51 / 426-4591
or thru e-mail: hrd@ystilosalon.com

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Sales Representatives for Plastic Bags & Pouches

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- Barista
- Waiters / Waitresses
- Dishwashers
- Cashiers
- Accounting staff
- Graphic artists
- Mascot performer
- Delivery staff

Minimum requirements:
6 months of related professional experience
Pleasing personality
5'4" for Female / 5'7" for Male (height)
Proficiency in spoken English language

Send your resume with photo at:

apply@chaikofi.com
Suite 1015 Tower1 Ayala Triangle, Ayala Ave.
Makati City, Philippines

www.chaikofi.com

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fruit infusions•chai •lattea • chai spikes • supreme blends• kofi latte

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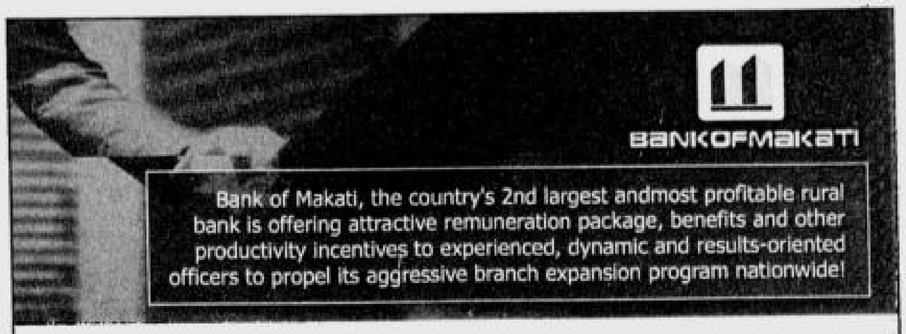

BANKOFMAKATI

Bank of Makati, the country's 2nd largest andmost profitable rural bank is offering attractive remuneration package, benefits and other productivity incentives to experienced, dynamic and results-oriented officers to propel its aggressive branch expansion program nationwide!

OFFICERS FOR NEW BRANCHES

- Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, Caloocan, Marikina, Valenzuela;
- Zapote, Cainta, Lipa City, Daet, Cabanatuan, Vigan;
- Cebu City, Iloilo, Bacolod, Tacloban, Puerto Princesa City; and,
- Davao.

BRANCH MANAGERS

We invite applicants who:

- **are currently receiving Php 30,000 or more;**
- are currently at least Asst. Manager Level (preferably in a commercial or thrift bank);
- demonstrate excellent managerial, marketing and negotiation skills; and,
- possess good oral and written communication skills.

BRANCH OPERATIONS HEADS/CASHIERS

We invite applicants who:

- have at least 5 years experience in bank operations; and,
- possess good oral and written communication skills.

BRANCH TELLERS

We invite applicants who:

- are graduates of any business-related course;
- are not over 25 years old;
- are computer literate;
- have good scholastic records;
- have good oral and written communication skills;
- possess pleasing personality; and,
- preferably with at least one (1) year experience as teller or new accounts clerk.

BRANCH LOAN PROCESSORS

We invite applicants who:

- are graduates of any business-related course;
- are computer literate;
- possess good oral and written communication skills; and,
- are not over 25 years old.

ACCOUNT OFFICER – SPECIALIZED LENDING

We invite applicants who:

- will spreadhead specialized lending projects of the bank;
- will evaluate credit and project investment worthiness of prospective accounts;
- will provide project finance/term financing/recommendations to clients and key company officials;
- will liaise with various government agencies (i.e. DBP, SSS, Landbank) involved in special lending programs to facilitate release of funds to ultimate borrowers and investors; and,
- possess at least five (5) years experience in specialized lending, bank relationship management, credit, structured loans, and project finance.

CREDIT / FIELD INVESTIGATORS

We invite applicants who:

- are male, not over 30 years old;
- are graduates of any business-related course;
- have good scholastic records; and
- preferably possess motorcycle driving skills.

IT AUDITORS

We invite applicants who:

are responsible for reviewing the control environment of the Bank's Information System;

- will be responsible in evaluating branches to ensure adherence to policies and procedures and to ensure standard implementation of procedures;
- are graduates of accounting, preferably CPAs;
- have at least three (3) years experience in IT Audit; and,
- have full knowledge of audit techniques and principles, internal controls, branch operations and banking systems.

AUDIT ASSISTANTS

We invite applicants who:

- have at least one (1) year experience in auditing, preferably in banks;
- have knowledge of audit techniques and principles, internal control and branch operations;
- IT literate;
- possess good business writing skills;
- have good interpersonal communication skills; and,
- are graduates of accounting, preferably CPAs.

Interested applicants may send their application letter, resume with 2X2 photo and transcript of records to:

Human Resources Department to **rbml_ho@yahoo.com**
or to PO Box 1090 Makati Central Post Office, Makati City.

All applications will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

FIND new ways of seeing and explore connections with B+C Design, a graphic design group immersed in a range of disciplines, including visual identity, print, environmental graphics, exhibition and museum graphics, etc.

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concept-oriented and visually resourceful + with extensive knowledge and exposure to different areas and trends in design, media, architecture, arts, and culture + dynamic, creative, and enthusiastic + minimum of 2 years experience in design [for senior]

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I B R I B D J R M E O A
C W A A A U I A A O C N
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G M A S Y M P H I T B L
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A R C H I T E C T U R E
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3 take-charge person + task-maker and task-oriented
+ articulate, organized, and decisive; speaks English well
+ good relational skills + creative and meticulous
+ minimum of 3 years experience in design

design
manager

SEND RESUME AND PORTFOLIO TO:
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UN DP

The CBRED (Philippines : Capacity Building to Remove Barriers to Renewable Energy Development) project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and implemented by the Department of Energy (DOE) is in search of qualified candidate for the post of **PMO Information, Promotion and Technology Support Specialist** to be based at the DOE Office in Makati City.

Technical Accountabilities :

General Activities

1. Responsible in ensuring the necessary technical support to the operation of the CBRED Project
2. Provides technical inputs to the management of various activities of the Project as may be required by the PMO Director.
3. Coordinates logistics, monitors the conduct, in accordance to specified/agreed timetables and evaluates the outputs and outcomes of project activities.
4. Provides recommendations to address activity-level issues for the following components of the CBRED Project:
   - RE Information and Promotion Services
   - RE Training Program
   - RE Technology Support Program
5. Assists the PMO Director in formulating strategies towards the institutionalization and long-term sustainability of the above-mentioned CBRED Project components.
6. Responsible for ensuring the prescribed management criteria (e.g. approved terms of reference (TOR), contractual obligations, quality control, etc.) in the execution of activities under the above-cited project components.
7. Responsible in monitoring and evaluation of activities using the result-based management approach.

Specific Activities

1. Reports regularly to the PMO Director on the status of project activities vis-à-vis target outputs.
2. Evaluates and generates reports and recommendations on the works and outputs of consultants and subcontractors involved in the said Project Components.
3. Assists in the conduct of project risk managements.
4. Provides technical inputs during the conduct of regular and quarterly Project Monitoring and Committee meetings and in the preparation of quarterly financial and project progress reports.
5. Provides technical inputs in the preparation of annual project reports (APR) and other reports as required by UNDP.

Qualifications :

1. A University degree in science and engineering;
2. Proven track record in project management such as in meeting deadlines, timely submission of acceptable deliverables, etc.;
3. Working knowledge and background on the Philippines RE Industry;
4. Knowledge and experience in the development and conduct of training programs;
5. At least 5 years experience in technology assessment and/or database management, IT management, and-marketing; and
6. With satisfactory skills on the use of office software packages such as MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint and MS Project.

While the CBRED project offers an equal employment opportunity, only Filipino professionals are invited for these specific posts.

All application letters and comprehensive resumés should reach our office on or before 31 January 2006 Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, tel # 901 0273.

This advertisement shall remain posted in www.undp.org.ph until January 31, 2006.

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Text us your feedback: inquirer paw name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Why do many leaders fail?

WORKING WOUNDED
Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I'M NEW IN A leadership position in my company. The guy who had the job before me was let go. What can I do to be a more effective leader?
Stay in Charge

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Travis Williams can teach us everything we need to know about leadership. He isn't a professor, CEO or business consultant. He was recently arrested for driving on Interstate 380 near Cedar Rapids, Iowa with the hood of his car open and totally blocking his view as he drove down the street. The police picked him up craning his neck out the window to see where he was going.

Mr. Williams had a huge blind spot and so do most of the leaders that I've met. That's why it's so important for everyone in a leadership position to ask themselves hard questions on a regular basis. I've listed some below. For more, check out "Why CEOs Fail" by Dotlich and Cairo (Jossey-Bass, 2003).

How is that working for you? Everyone likes to make fun of Dr. Phil. But his question, "How is that working for you?" is one that most of us don't ask ourselves nearly enough. Given tools like the 360 evaluation, where employees can rate their boss, there is no reason to not know exactly how you are doing as a leader.

Where are you vulnerable? Dotlich and Cairo have identified 11 "derailers" or behaviors that can undo a leader: arrogance, melodrama, volatility, excessive caution, habitual distrust, aloofness, mischievousness, eccentricity, passive resistance, perfectionism, eagerness to please.

Do you analyze the adversity you are facing? I'm a big believer in avoiding problems whenever possible. That's why it's so important to learn everything you can from past mistakes. What patterns can you spot, what behaviors got you into trouble and what did your critics say that ended up being right—are a few great places to start.

Do you listen to your customers? Ah, customers. Can't live with 'em, can't live without 'em. Sure, a lot of customers today are just focused on getting more for less. As much as they can drive you crazy, it is really important to see every interaction as a focus group where you can learn something new.

Do you have a mentor or confidant? Many leaders see mentorship as a one way street, something that they do for others, but that they really don't need anymore. I couldn't disagree with this more strongly. Recently, I heard about "reverse mentoring" where bosses get mentored by younger workers on the front lines to learn about the challenges that they face and about how the point of view of a younger worker can differ from the older bosses. Everyone can profit from being mentored by someone.

Do you force yourself to change? As we get older, it is easier to get set in your ways. I'm a big believer that the only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.

Watch that blind spot and you'll have the vision to fix whatever ails you.

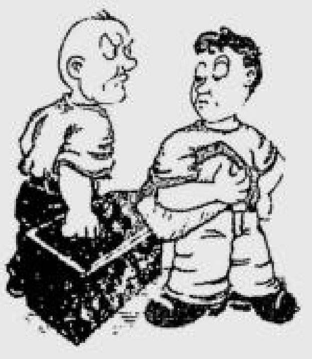
(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

How to tackle your moodiness

BEST ★ Attitudes

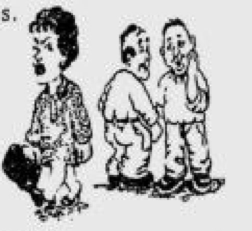
By Teresa Reyes Tunay
Illustration by Rolando Reyes

NOBODY ENJOYS WORKING with a moody person. You can't reason out with him. You can't be sure when he's up or down. You can't be spontaneous with him—you have to always find out first if he's "in the mood" to see anyone, or even to take a simple joke. He's not fun to be around, really.

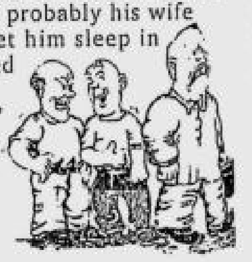


1 In fact, moody people are only "fun" when we can make fun of them. Isn't it that when our lady boss is in a bad mood, we giggle behind her back and say, "*Pasensiya na tayo, nagmemenopause na kasi iyan!* (Let's just be patient with her because she is already at the menopause stage.)"

2 See, it's not life's misfortunes that depress or irritate us and make us sad or angry. What affects our moods in all situations is not the events in our life but the way we interpret these events.

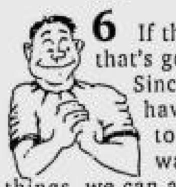


3 Or if it's a male boss in a lousy mood, we also dismiss it laughingly with "*Siguro* outside-the-*kulambo iyan kagabi kaya mainit ang ulo, heh-heh-heh!* (He is hot-tempered because probably his wife didn't let him sleep in their bed last night.)"



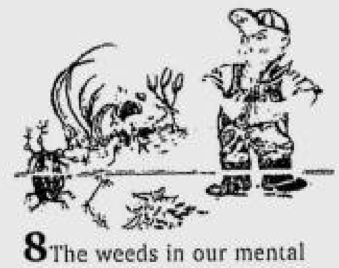
4 We all know how destructive moods can be. When we have the "dumps" we can't concentrate on work, we don't socialize, we have no patience for others' shortcomings, we snap at everybody—and then we hate ourselves for being so nasty.

5 What about you? Yes, you! We all have moods! But you certainly don't want to be the person you don't enjoy being with—that moody person—so are you doing anything to master your moods?



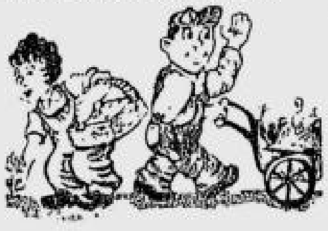
6 If that is so, then that's good news! Since all of us have the ability to change the way we look at things, we can all change the way we feel about events. Therefore, events can no longer dictate our moods.

7 We can become experts at mastering our moods if we think of our mind as a garden in which our thoughts may bloom. Some of these thoughts are like flowers that are delightful and make us happy. Others are like weeds that choke our self-confidence and make us feel anxious and unhappy.



8 The weeds in our mental garden are distorted thoughts. According to psychological research, most of the thoughts that give us bad moods are actually distorted and unrealistic. These thoughts have been acquired over a lifetime and have become a habit for us, almost automatically determining our moods in any situation.

9 The good thing about it is we are our own gardener. Just like in any garden, the gardener's job is to pull out the weeds so that the pretty flowers may grow.



10 If we want to be master of our moods, we'd better flex our "mental muscles" and start weeding our garden of distorted, unrealistic thoughts. And let our thoughts bloom like pretty flowers; that way we can be fun to be with.

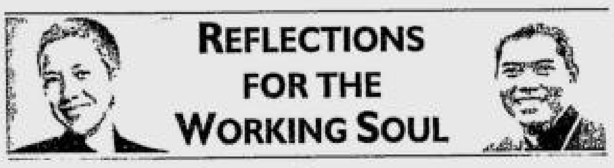
Responding to Jesus' call

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

SIMON AND HIS BROTHER ANDREW OF TODAY'S GOSPEL, who must have been very good fishermen, must have been surprised by the invitation of Jesus to come after Him. But they believed in Jesus and so they readily abandoned fishing and took up evangelizing—living with Jesus, preaching and leading people to true faith in Him. Likewise, in history and until recent times, there have been a number of good, successful, and expert engineers, doctors, lawyers, and other professionals, technicians or even skilled laborers who had received the "vocation" to follow Jesus and abandoned their jobs and professions in order to respond positively to God's call by becoming His ministers.

Jesus' invitation to follow Him and become "fishers of men" continues to ring everywhere, even in places of business and work. Everyone, of whatever profession or whatever kind of work, is invited by Jesus to help establish His kingdom here on earth and can respond affirmatively to Jesus without necessarily abandoning his job and workplace. One can also effectively accomplish the mission of Jesus by making others see the presence of God in the very workplace itself.

Taking one's work seriously and responsibly, giving the best in doing one's job, performing the daily tasks as an homage to God and loving service for the family and society—is responding positively to Jesus' call by somehow "fishing" the attention of other workers to start wondering and pondering on the true meaning and value of work and how it relates one with God. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)



REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

A bait for Jesus

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

THE CALL FROM THE LORD (TO FOLLOW HIM AND BECOME "fishers of men") may come in more ways than one. And it may not at all mean you are to enter a seminary or a nunnery. At the workplace, it may come in the form of a vague sense of dissatisfaction over your job, a general feeling that while everything about your work seems okay, still there is something unsettling about it. The usual response to that situation is to look for another job, seek a promotion, maybe switch careers, or take a vacation. But a person who does his work in full attention would know that those usual responses may or may not be effective. In fact, they may only change one's environment without really addressing or resolving the issue.

Happy is the worker who recognizes in job dissatisfaction Jesus' call for him to renew himself. One may not even need to leave anything—work, position, company, workplace—in order to respond to the Lord's invitation, for it is first and foremost a call to a higher level of consciousness and being.

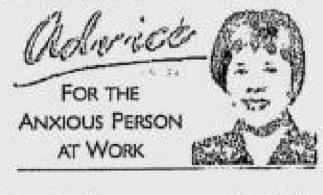
Mang Emong, a garbage collector, thought he would be happier as a policeman but circumstances kept him where he was—collecting garbage; but when in his frustration he started to deeply realize that as a garbage collector he was caring for something which God created, Mang Emong became the happiest garbage collector this side of Eden. Arlene, a reporter, wanted to switch papers to succeed as a journalist but got no chance to, so she stayed but resolved hence to write stories focusing on the good in man; success soon came and stayed, too.

Jesus' invitation is for us not to convert others but to be converted to His way of living and loving; thus converted we become "baits" attracting others to Him. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Gospel: Mk. 1: 14-20
As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Call center agent wants to be a trainer



Advice FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

By Tita Datu Puangco

I AM WRITING YOU TO EXPRESS my current dissatisfaction with my present job. It has been six months since I have been working as an agent in a call center for a multinational financial institution, having been newly regularized with leave perks. I am 26 years old with a bachelor's degree in the life sciences from a major private university. Previously, I worked in the realty business with a brief stint as an agent in another call center for more than a year.

My superiors, colleagues and the HR people are very easy to get along with. I have a good fixed day shift and flexible schedule. The job pays well for entry-level people (P16,000 plus). The office is a short commute from where I live, and so far I have no qualms with the pace of my routine. Based on evaluations, I have performed above par and I have never been late nor absent for work.

However, to tell you the truth, this is not what I envisioned myself to be. I really want to be is a corporate trainer. Although I have a useless natural science degree, I have unlocked a passion for languages and public speaking. In the past two years, I have earned my Competent Toastmaster (CTM) norm, brushed up my fluency in Spanish, and joined PSTD (Philippine Society for Training and Development). Modesty aside, I do believe that these credentials definitely set me apart from my peers. The fact that I can speak Spanish (which gives me higher market value in the BPO world) and cofacilitate Toastmasters meetings almost every week is a rare skill in a call center employee or a trainer.

How does one start to be a corporate trainer from scratch, with no teaching or training work experience? Do you suggest that I approach and befriend the training manager, and beg/request that I be considered for a training job? Do you recommend that I sit it out with the company until the elusive promotion comes?

I've been thinking of speaking to the training manager about my career growth until the company hired two trainers who don't even know about the bank products since they never took calls for us. I'm afraid of an outright rejection, so what I'm doing right now is being proactive, networking with Toastmasters, PSTD, friends and headhunters for job openings as a first-time trainer.

I may not have the work experience nor the communications or psychology degree as required by most companies, but I do believe that I have more than adequate preparation after investing my time particularly with Toastmasters International.

Although my company treats me well with nice perks, I detest the intellectual stagnation and monotony of working as an agent in a call center. I really want to expand my horizons and to use my public speaking talents as a trainer before it rots. It hurts to pretend I am happy when I am not fulfilled inside.

How can I make a career transition to corporate training? If you know of any vacancies by July 2006 (that is when my

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'I'm afraid that I might be fired!'

By Ernie O. Cecilia

OUR PERSONNEL MANAGER just got fired. What guarantee do I have that I, a production supervisor, will not lose my job? I work in a multinational manufacturing company with a few regular employees and more temporary, contractual or project employees. The payroll, logistics and other support services are outsourced to third-party experts. We are already a lean group but the president continues to find ways to downsize our organization.

I think my job is important in the organization, and my boss continues to assure me that I will never lose my job unless it is due to my own fault. However, when I look around me I see that there are many outsourcing options for most functions in our company, including mine.

What should I do to keep myself relevant in the organization? How can I regain peace of mind and focus on my job?

Afraid and Anxious

Firstly, rest assured that no one gets fired unless there is a cause and the due process is observed. While you haven't told me why your personnel manager was fired, I would suppose that there must have been a cause. Under Philippine laws, it is easier to fire managers than ordinary rank and file. While both types of employees have security of tenure, it is true that the higher one goes in the organizational ladder, the closer he gets to the door. Usually, the principle that applies here is "much is given, much is expected."

Fear of being fired

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Ernie O. Cecilia

In reality, security of tenure is not absolute. Even a great performer can lose his job if the company chooses to outsource the job he is doing, or as a result of business reverses or other similar economic reasons. Lean organizations, outsourcing, third-party handlers or contractors and subcontractors—these are the new order of the day in workplaces all over the world. The possibility of loss of job is ever present in today's workplace. In most cases, however, the fear of being fired is more imagined that real.

Usually, the telltale signs of closure of a company or a department rear their ugly heads long before retrenchment or redundancy becomes a reality. As an employee, you should be constantly aware of where your company is going, how it fares with competition, and which jobs or skills are more relevant and needed than others.

Telltale signs

When your company incurs losses for a few years, this should already alert you on the possibility of looking for greener pasture. When your company's products are no longer saleable in the market, or when your job is no longer relevant because technology has offered a better substitute to your skills, then you should not wait for the axe to fall.

In many seminars or counseling sessions I have conducted, I learned that many employees consider their being hired by great companies as their biggest success, especially considering their meager qualifications. A great majority of them just coast along, aimlessly plodding everyday, never caring whether or not they continue to be relevant to the organization. There are greater risks for this type of employees.

Greater risk

To some people who are more career-oriented, there is something more scary than being fired. It is the fear that they might lose control of their life and get stuck in a job they hate doing. This fear usually stems from being complacent and eventually living one's life and career according to someone else's terms. People at work who succumb to this malady usually end up hating their work, resigning their fate to the organization, and ending up at the mercy of the almighty market.

False security

Many people at work get lulled into a false sense of security because of the comfort that a regular paycheck brings. That you continue to receive your pay is no guarantee that one day you'll not be back on the street again.

Forget the paycheck. Ask yourself if you are constantly learning new things, growing in your personal and professional life, moving towards your ultimate career goal, and contributing value to your organization in the process. If you don't see these things happening in your life, your fear of being fired might soon become a reality in the near future.

Increase your marketability

Keep pushing yourself to do better than your best. Widen the scope of your work, expand your sphere of influence, make your job more "difficult" (i.e., do more than you are expected to do)—do all these to prepare yourself for the eventuality of what you fear most. When the time comes that you need to look for another job, your increased marketability arising from your diverse skills or in-depth expertise in your chosen field will save the day for you.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Save

I have seen how helpless people become whenever they lose their jobs. I have also seen how people have become beholden to their bosses and organizations because they simply could not survive a month without the paycheck.

If you want to remove your fear of being fired, and if you want to retain your dignity and avoid becoming a willing captive to your bosses' whims and caprices, save enough money that will allow you to maintain the same lifestyle you now have for three to six months without a job. When loss of job occurs, or when you want to leave a job you hate, or can't compromise your principles and values with your organization, then the thought that you will eat and live for the next three to six months with your savings will make things easier for you.

Whether it's your first job, or you have only five years before retirement, it pays to save money for the eventuality of loss of job or career switch. The worst that could happen is to swallow your pride, give up your principles, and drag yourself to work everyday doing what you hate most or working for someone you don't respect.

As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Fear springs from ignorance."

Learn more

The best way to overcome fear of being fired is to learn more. Master your present job. Learn different ways of doing the same job. Be the best in whatever you do.

Then, venture into uncharted seas. Leave the shore, so to speak. Learn new skills, even in areas outside your comfort zone. Develop yourself in areas where there are greater chances of success for you. As you develop your skills, you will tend to enhance your self-confidence and self-image. Then you will develop a reputation of being the best in whatever you do.

At the end of the day, the real security is not in the Labor Code. It lies in your ability to be able to do a variety of tasks over time, even as you move from one job to another, from one career to another, or from one organization to another.

(Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. He was the president of Personnel Management Association of the Philippines or PMAP in 1999. His career books are available at popular bookstores. Send feedback to ernie cecilia@yahoo.com.*)*

Call center ...

From page 6★★★

present contract ends), I would be more than happy to get in touch with you at your convenience so that we can discover other possibilities that would brighten up my career.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my letter.

Stagnating and Frustrated Trainer

I think your frustration is giving you the energy and passion to develop yourself as a trainer. I also realize that call center work can be enticing in terms of the rewards and perks. The job also provides a person starting his career with very valuable skills. You are making the right moves joining Toastmaster International, joining and learning Spanish. A person who knows four languages has a clear competitive advantage over one who simply speaks English. Knowing Spanish will be useful not just for call center work but for other types of work. I estimate that one-fifth of the world speaks Spanish.

Yes, please submit your resumé. I will have you interviewed either to be part of our company or refer you to our clients in need of a trainer. You must be ready to take a step backward though, in terms of pay to gain the exposure and experience you desire. Then, you can take three steps forward. Many young people who have joined us gained valuable competencies and are now accomplished officers and managers in prestigious corporations.

I can also see in you a person who is appreciative of his blessings but with a strong desire to move forward in terms of career.

(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. E-mail feedback to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or call tel. nos. 8922895/96/98.)*

NTC-M NMFPI

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ONE (1) HEAD OF NAUTICAL, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Who Are We?	What We Are Looking For?
The Norwegian Training Center-Manila of the Norwegian Maritime Foundation of the Phils., Inc. (NMFPI) was founded in May 1990 for the purpose of ensuring competent training and to promote quality shipping. We offer varied courses from Ship and Cargo Handling; Management; Technical; Safety Courses; Welding; and Culinary Courses. Our faculty of Norwegian, Australian and Filipino mariners is trained to teach with confidence, aided by modern teaching aids and methods.	1. Good communication skills. 2. At least 2 years experience as Master in international trade. 3. Preferably with teaching experience with 6.09 and 3.12 training certificates.

For applications, please contact either of the following:

Capt. Rex O. Recomite
Training Manager

E-mail Address:
training.manager@ntcm.com.ph

Address:
Norwegian Training Center-Manila
NTC-M Building
Gate 2 TESDA Complex,
East Service Road, Taguig
Metro Manila
Tel. No.: 812-07-42
Website: www.ntcm.com.ph
E-mail: ntcm. registrar@ntcm.com.ph

We are inviting you to join our team

Account Officer (Metro Manila & Cebu City)

- College graduate with a degree in Marketing, Business Administration or any equivalent 4-year course.
- Preferably with work experience in Group Insurance, both in sales and administration.
- Between 25 – 35 years old
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Must be customer service-oriented, self-starter, resourceful and a team player
- Must have a Non-Professional driver's license with 1-year experience in driving
- Proficient in Windows/MS Office

Group Administration Assistant

- College graduate with a degree in Marketing, Business Administration or any equivalent 4-year course
- Between 22 – 25 years old
- Preferably with 1 year work experience in Group Insurance
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Must be customer service-oriented, self-starter, resourceful and a team player
- Proficient in MS Office applications

Human Resources Assistant – Training & Employee Relations

- College Graduate with a degree in Psychology, Human Resource Management or its equivalent
- At least 1 year work experience in Training & Development
- Between 22 – 25 years old
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Must be customer service-oriented, self-starter, resourceful and a team player
- Proficient in MS Office applications

Legal Assistant

- College Graduate of any 4 year business/arts course with Law units from Law University
- Preferably with three (3) years work experience in the same capacity
- Between 23-30 years old
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Must be customer service-oriented, self-starter, resourceful and a team player
- Proficient in MS Office applications

**Competitive salary and benefits package awaits successful candidates*

Interested applicants may send their resumé in MS Word format thru e-mail or may visit us at our office, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

Deadline: January 31, 2006

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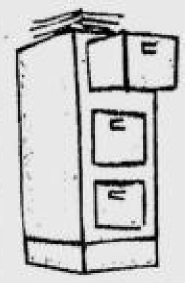

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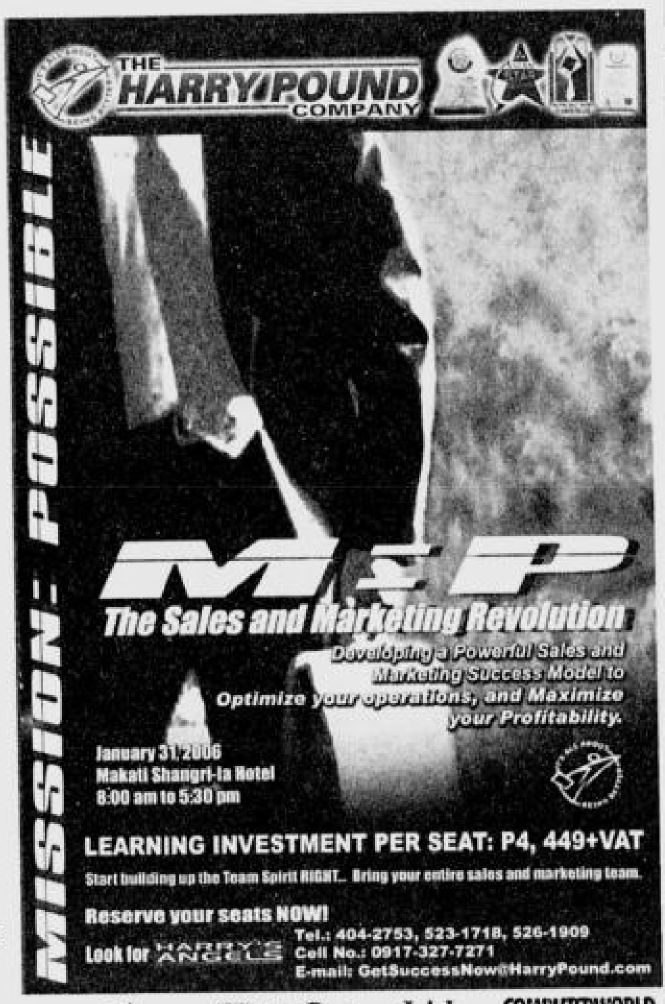

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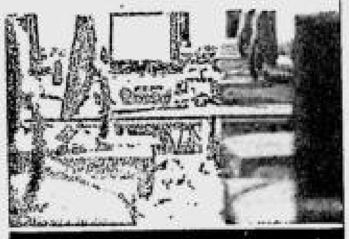

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Discover how to optimize IT development and delivery processes so that you can bring your projects online more effectively, more quickly and on budget.

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Who Should Attend

Directors and managers of IT, project managers and team leaders, programmers/analysts, systems analysts, project office staff members, as well as those who manage IT projects but are not necessarily experts in the field.

How You Will Benefit

- Master the do's and don'ts practiced by successful managers
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For further information, call Jasmin Runez at telephone numbers 8451324 or 7596680 or e-mail at jrunez@imperialconsulting.com.ph

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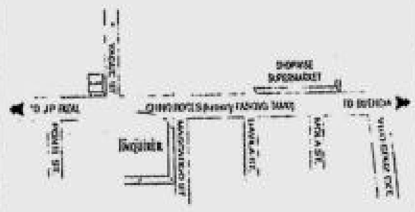

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836 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
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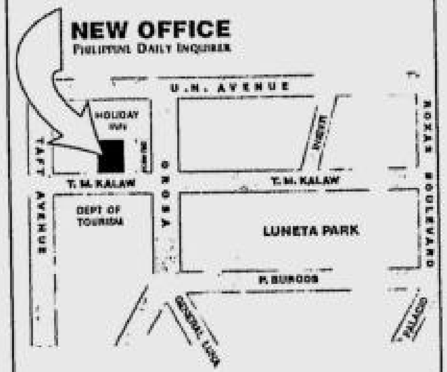
TEL. NO.: 527-3342 / 522-4406



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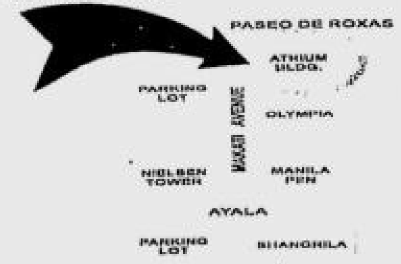
Call EMY, BENG, TINTIN or CARLO at
TEL. NOS. 811-4370 / 811-4361 / 811-4012 / 892-5578



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- Graduate of Mass Communication or any related course
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Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:

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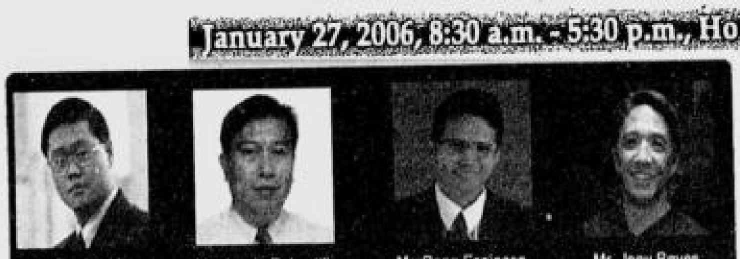

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> - Isaac Disraeli

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to work for our Distributor Partner in the areas of Pampanga, Bataan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija and Zambales.

JOB DESCRIPTION:
✓ **Will handle a sub-distributor partner to grow the business.**

QUALIFICATIONS:

☞ College graduates from the localities;
☞ Highly motivated; Aggressive; Hardworking;
☞ Must possess excellent oral and written communication skills both in English and Filipino;
☞ Preferably Male, willing to work on a graveyard shift, fast-paced, dynamic and flexible environment.

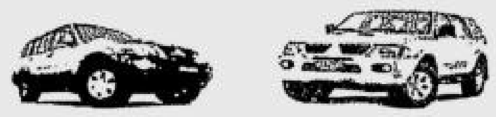
☐ Background in sales is not necessary, but a plus..

Send your ***Resume*** to **GQY Distribution Group Inc.** at **GQY Distributors Inc., Dolores Homesite Extension, Dolores, San Fernando Pampanga**

or call/fax 045-9614048 and look for

Mr. Mar Manabat or Mr. Jess Yap.

You can email it to
jessy@mail.irnet.net.ph or qdydistribution.com.ph



A prestigious Mitsubishi car dealership based in Makati and Las Piñas is currently in need of dynamic & customer oriented individuals to fill in the following positions:

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- Graduate of any Business course
- With above average communication skills and has pleasing personality
- Customer-service oriented and can deal with people at different levels

QUALITY CONTROL INSPECTOR

- Graduate of Automotive Course
- Minimum of five (5) years working experience as Senior Mechanic
- Excellent hearing and feeling perceptions
- With professional driver's license

JOB CONTROLLER

- With five (5) years working experience in job handling
- Must be well versed in Service Shop operations including vehicle servicing
- Can communicate effectively with various sectors of the Service Shop
- With professional driver's license

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- Graduate of BSME or BS Industrial Education, Major in Automotive
- With two (2) years experience in related field
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Or e-mail hrd@citimotors.com

The JUSTICE REFORM INITIATIVES SUPPORT PROJECT (JURIS)
A five year judicial reform project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

needs immediately

LOCAL ACTION RESEARCHERS

Based in Cagayan de Oro and Baguio City

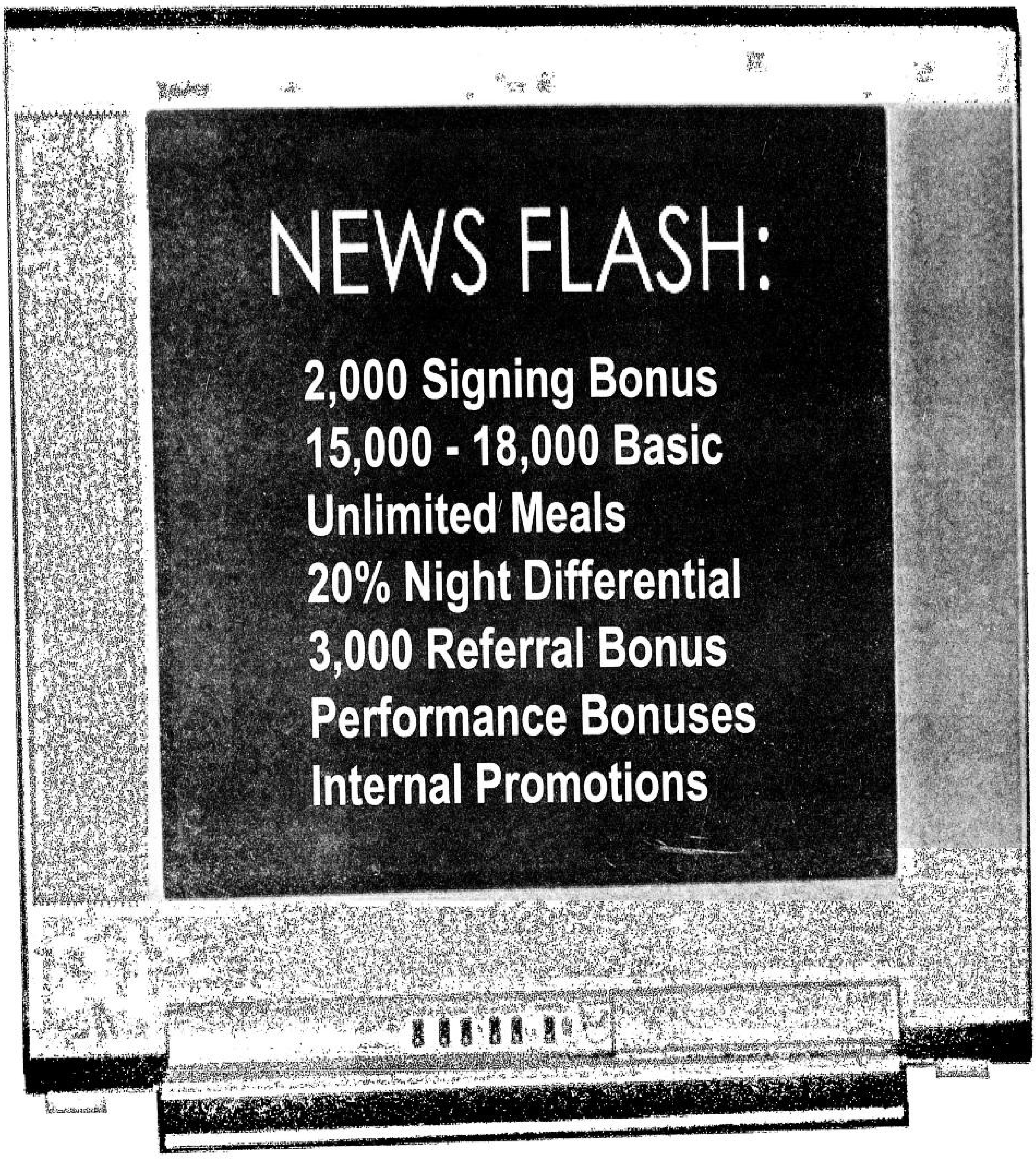
The JURIS Project is a joint initiative of the Canadian and Philippine Government through the Philippine Judicial Academy (PhilJA), the Alternative Law Groups (ALG) and the National Judicial Institute (NJI) Canada. The project seeks to introduce innovations in the first and second level courts through court annexed mediation and judicial dispute resolution.

Reporting directly to the Research Director, the Local Action Researchers shall

- Observe, document and report on the innovations being undertaken in the court system in Cagayan de Oro and Baguio City, and its impact on various stakeholders;
- Provide insights into the various factors contributing to the success or shortcomings of the reforms being introduced;
- Provide timely feedback to the Research Director on a monthly basis on the progress of the project at the field level;
- Assist in the collation of monthly statistical reports on the success rate of mediation and judicial dispute resolution.

The qualified candidate should be based in Cagayan de Oro and Baguio City, or its nearby towns, and should be able to communicate fluently in Bisaya (Cebuano) and Ilocano, respectively. A legal background, or knowledge or experience in the judicial system is an advantage but not necessary. The qualified candidate could have a degree in law, social science, public administration or other related fields. The position is part time and may be combined with other work that the applicant has.

Please forward your resume by email to **jurispro@pldtdsl.net**, or by fax to **02-631-0258**, or mail them to JURIS at 2008 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center 1605, Pasig City. Deadline for the submission of applications is **February 8, 2006.**



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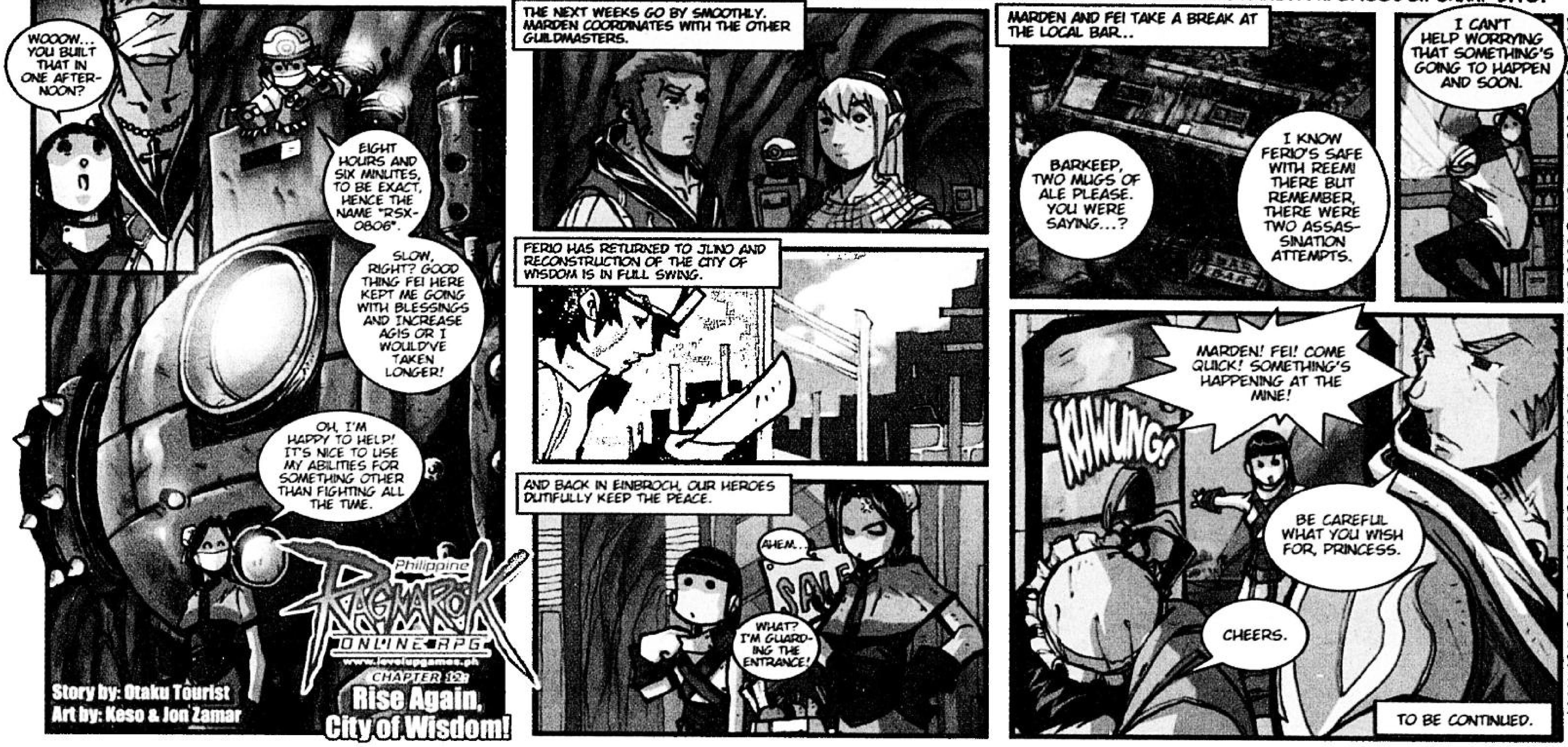
RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL UP GAMES

EPISODE 11: EINBROCH WEBSITE NOW UP! HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH/EPISODE11 SARAP DITO!


WOOOW... YOU BUILT THAT IN ONE AFTER-NOON?
EIGHT HOURS AND SIX MINUTES, TO BE EXACT, HENCE THE NAME "RSX-0806".
SLOW, RIGHT? GOOD THING FEI HERE KEPT ME GOING WITH BLESSINGS AND INCREASE AGIS OR I WOULD'VE TAKEN LONGER!
OH, I'M HAPPY TO HELP! IT'S NICE TO USE MY ABILITIES FOR SOMETHING OTHER THAN FIGHTING ALL THE TIME.
Philippine RAGNAROK ONLINE RPG
www.levelupgames.ph
CHAPTER 12:
Rise Again, City of Wisdom!
Story by: Otaku Tourist
Art by: Keso & Jon Zamar
THE NEXT WEEKS GO BY SMOOTHLY. MARDEN COORDINATES WITH THE OTHER GUILDMASTERS.
FERIO HAS RETURNED TO JUNO AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CITY OF WISDOM IS IN FULL SWING.
AND BACK IN EINBROCH, OUR HEROES DUTIFULLY KEEP THE PEACE.
AHEM...
SALE
WHAT? I'M GUARD-ING THE ENTRANCE!
MARDEN AND FEI TAKE A BREAK AT THE LOCAL BAR..
BARKEEP, TWO MUGS OF ALE PLEASE. YOU WERE SAYING...?
I KNOW FERIO'S SAFE WITH REEM! THERE BUT REMEMBER, THERE WERE TWO ASSAS-SINATION ATTEMPTS.
I CAN'T HELP WORRYING THAT SOMETHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN AND SOON.
KWWUNG!
MARDEN! FEI! COME QUICK! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING AT THE MINE!
BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR, PRINCESS.
CHEERS.
TO BE CONTINUED.

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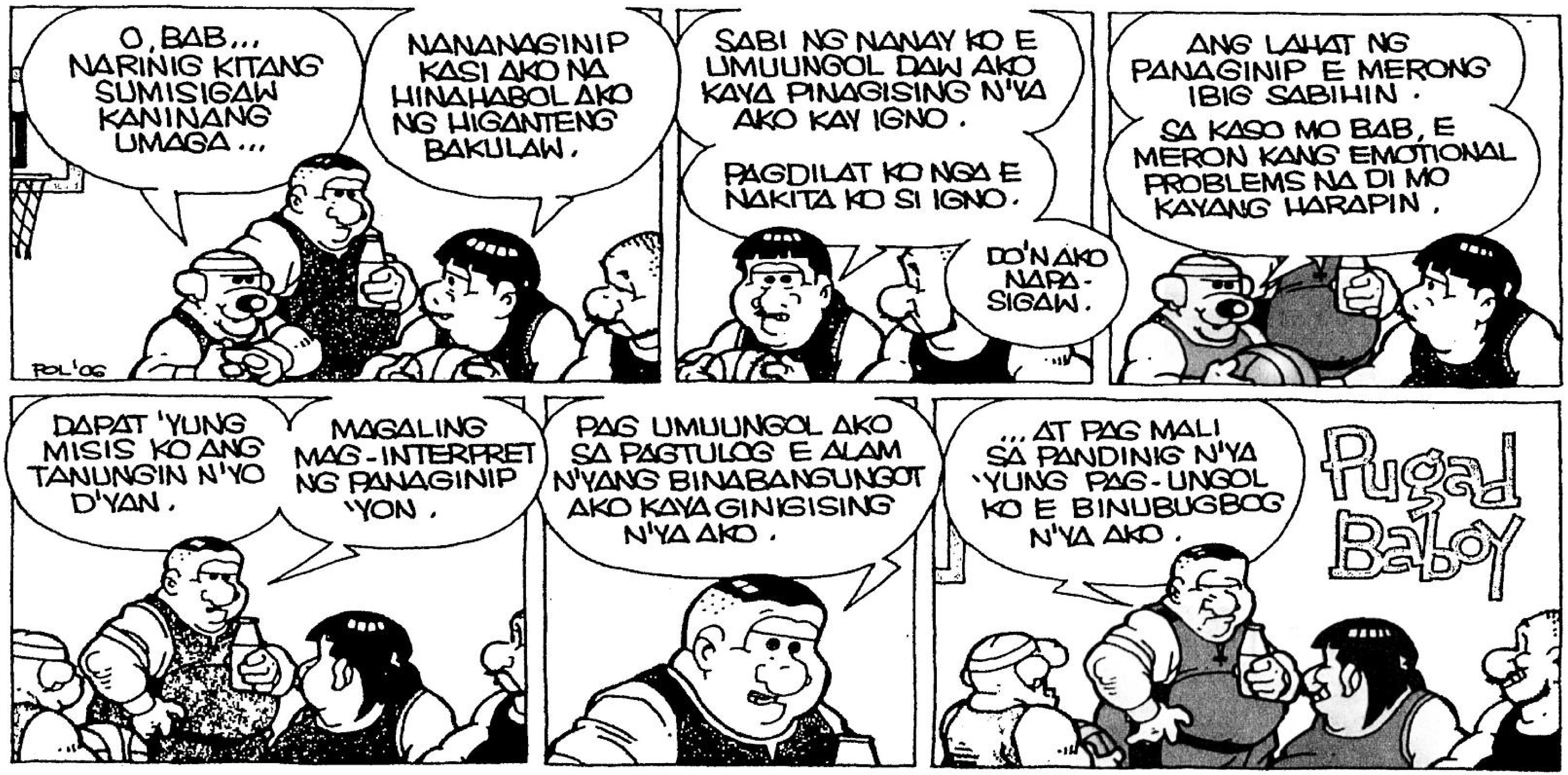
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


O, BAB... NARINIG KITANG SUMISIGAW KANINANG UMAGA...
NANANAGINIP KASI AKO NA HINAHABOL AKO NG HIGANTENG BAKULAW.
POL '06
SABI NG NANAY KO E UMUUNGOL DAW AKO KAYA PINAGISING N'YA AKO KAY IGNO.
PAGDILAT KO NGA E NAKITA KO SI IGNO.
DO'N AKO NAPA-SIGAW.
ANG LAHAT NG PANAGINIP E MERONG IBIG SABIHIN.
SA KASO MO BAB, E MERON KANG EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS NA DI MO KAYANG HARAPIN.
DAPAT 'YUNG MISIS KO ANG TANUNGIN N'YO D'YAN.
MAGALING MAG-INTERPRET NG PANAGINIP 'YON.
PAG UMUUNGOL AKO SA PAGTULOG E ALAM N'YANG BINABANGUNGOT AKO KAYA GINIGISING N'YA AKO.
...AT PAG MALI SA PANDINIG N'YA 'YUNG PAG-UNGOL KO E BINUBUGBOG N'YA AKO.
Pugad Baboy

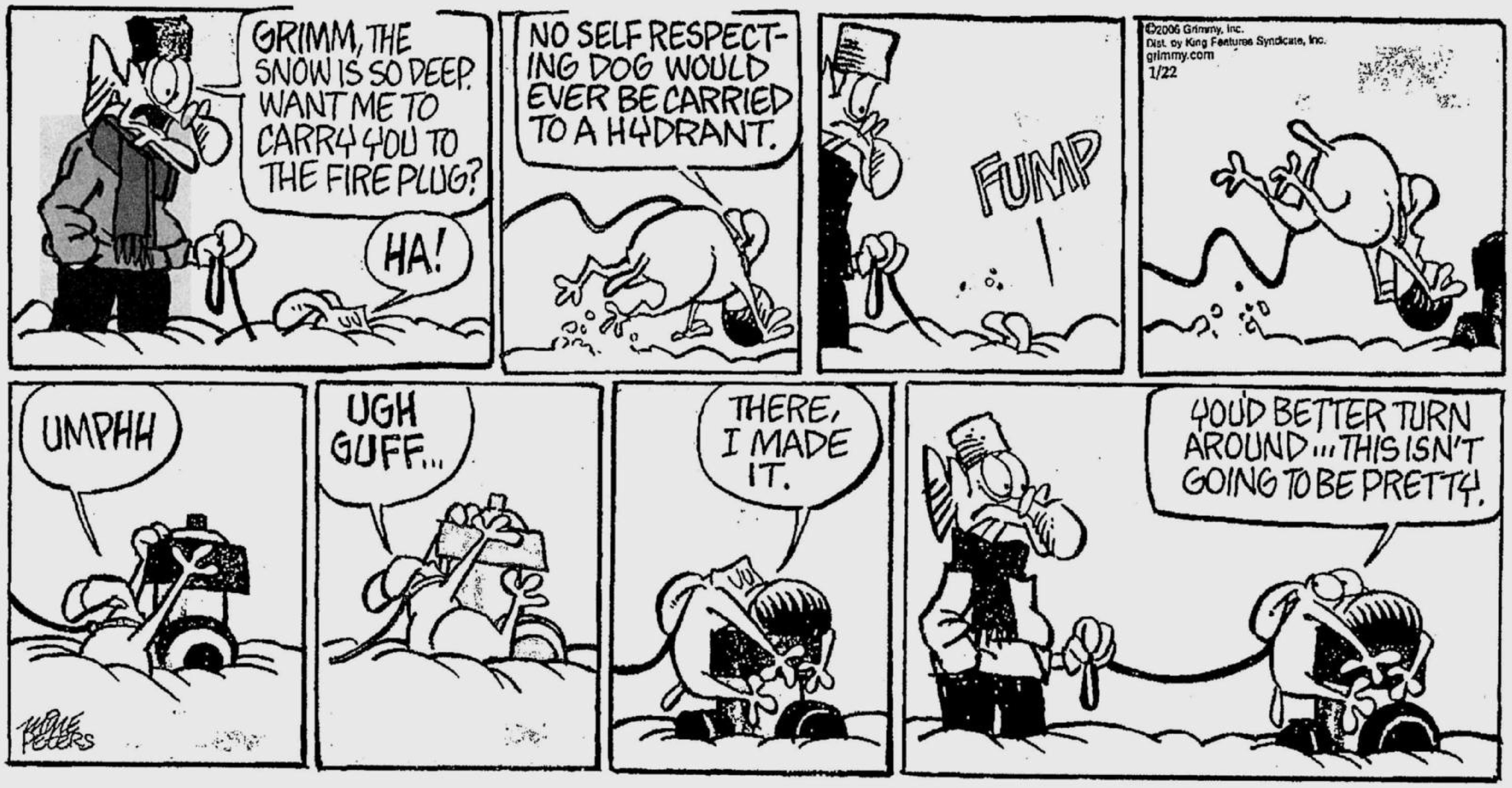
WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE COMICS STRIP? To better improve the Inquirer Comics Sunday section, we'd like to know what your favorite comic strips are:

① Choose your favorite comic strip among the current titles we have now: a.Ragnarok b.Moomoo hunters c.Garfield d.Mothergoose and Grimm e.Pugad Baboy f.Inday Wanda g.Zits h.Full House

② Text **inquirer life name/age/city/letter of your choice/reason for your answer** to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMM, THE SNOW IS SO DEEP. WANT ME TO CARRY YOU TO THE FIRE PLUG?
HA!
NO SELF RESPECTING DOG WOULD EVER BE CARRIED TO A HYDRANT.
FUMP
UMPHH
UGH GUFF...
THERE, I MADE IT.
YOU'D BETTER TURN AROUND... THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE PRETTY.
MIKE PETERS

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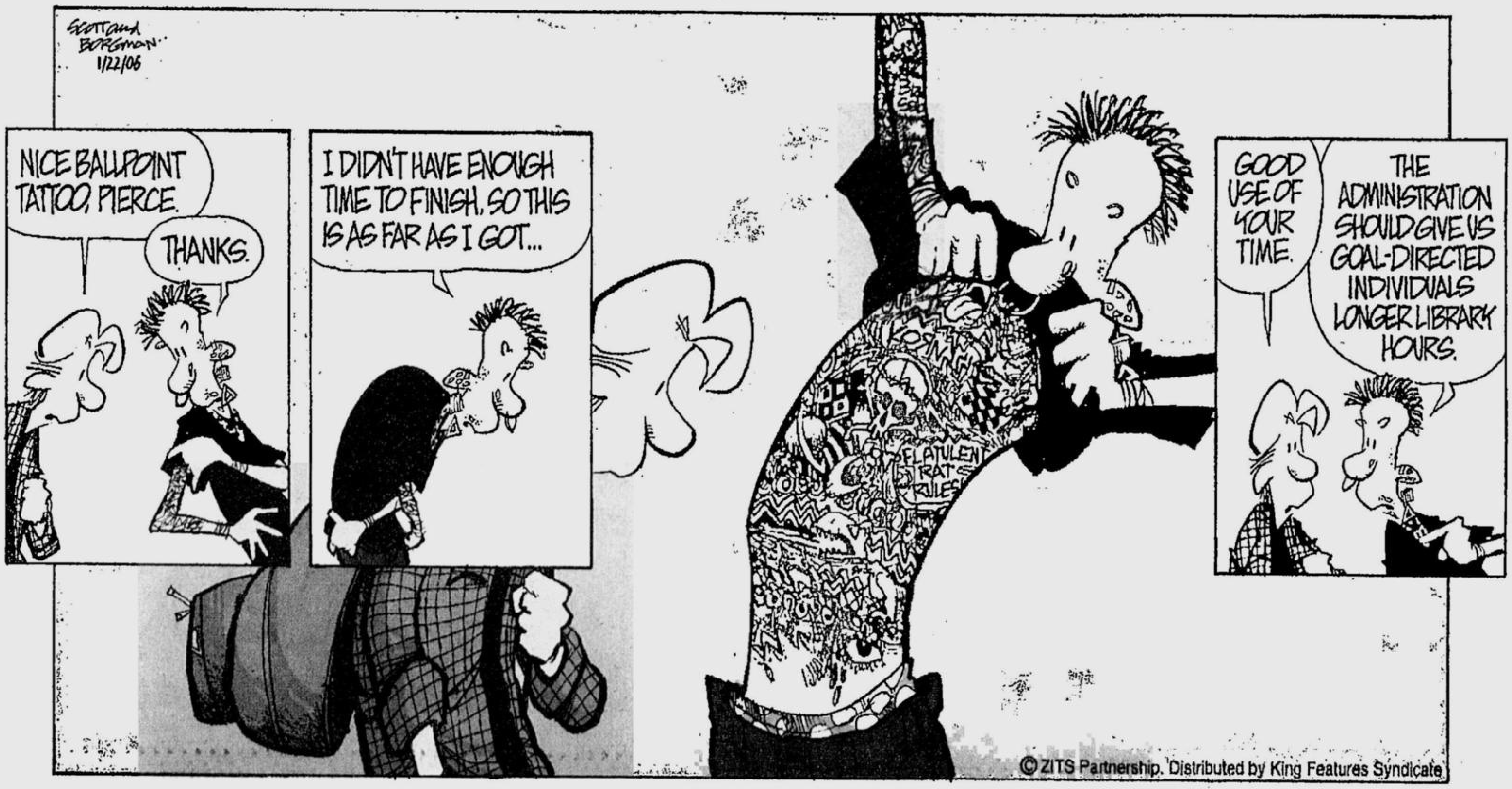
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


SCOTT and BORGMAN 1/22/06
NICE BALLPOINT TATTOO, PIERCE.
THANKS.
I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO FINISH, SO THIS IS AS FAR AS I GOT...
FLATULEN RATS RULES
GOOD USE OF YOUR TIME.
THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD GIVE US GOAL-DIRECTED INDIVIDUALS LONGER LIBRARY HOURS.

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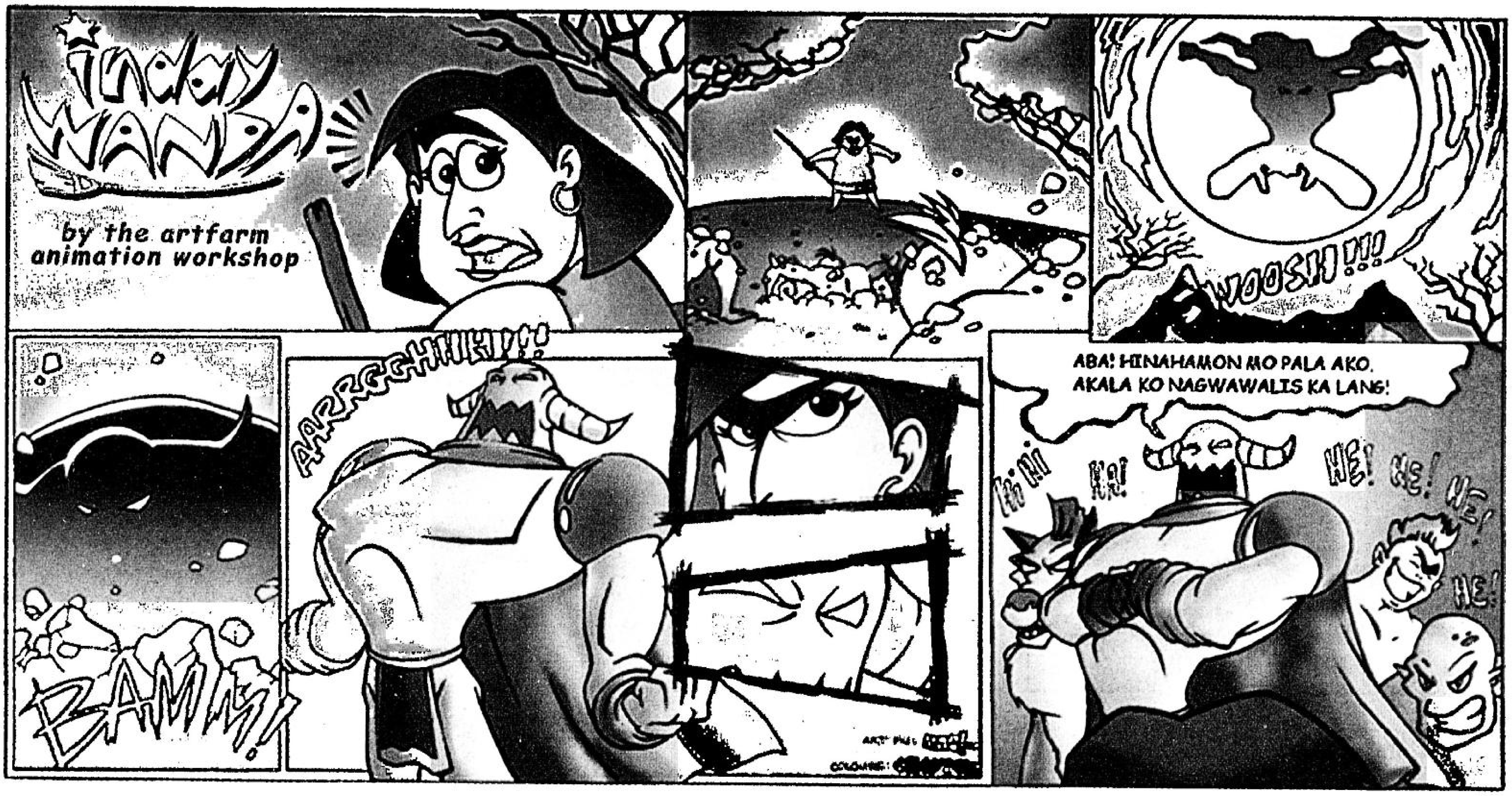
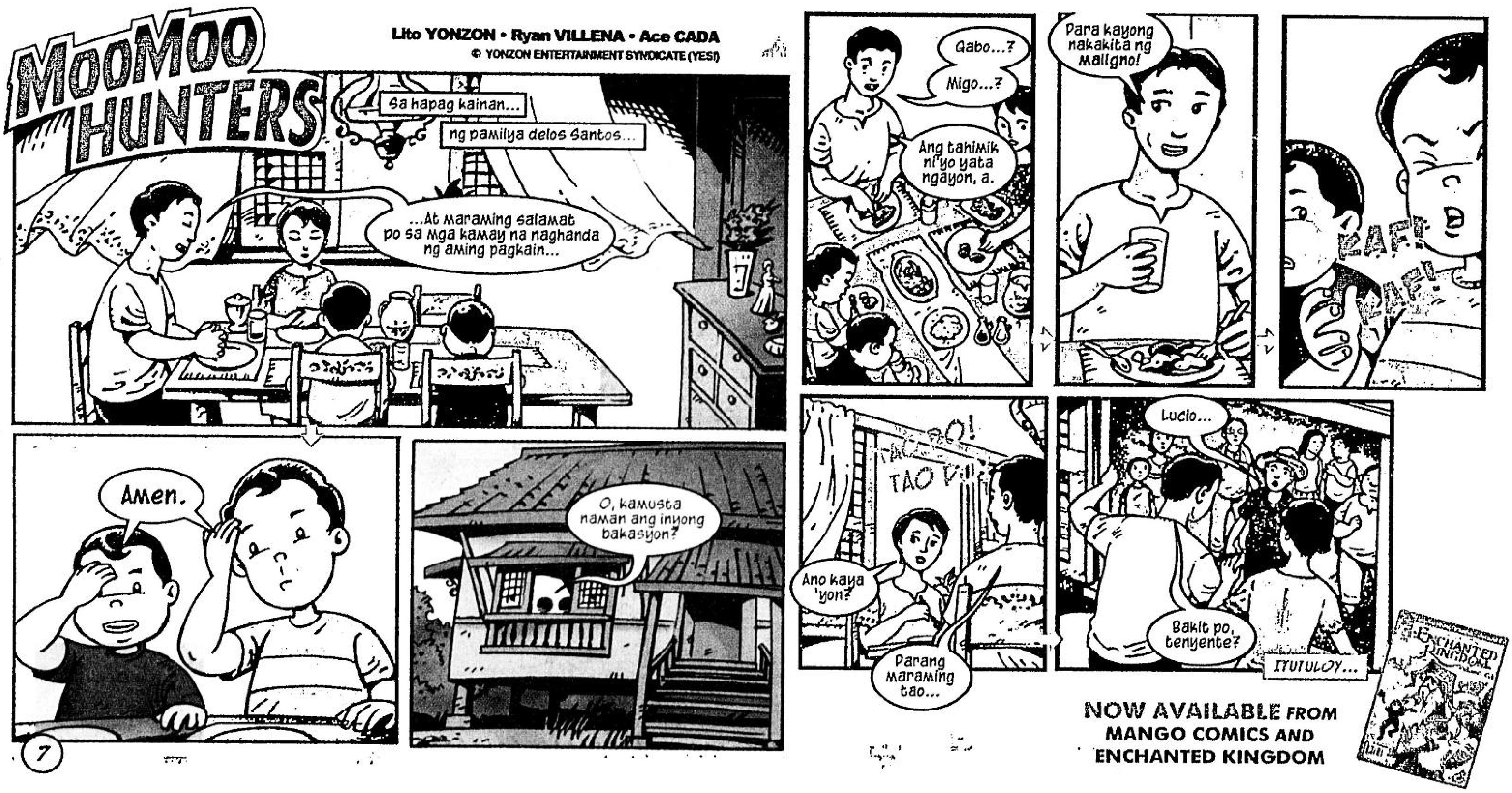
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


Inday Wanda
by the artfarm animation workshop
WOOSH!!!
BAMM!
AARRGGHHH!!!
ABA! HINAHAMON MO PALA AKO. AKALA KO NAGWAWALIS KA LANG!
HI! HI!
HA! HA!
HE! HE! HE! HE!
ART BY:
COLORING:

MOOMOO HUNTERS

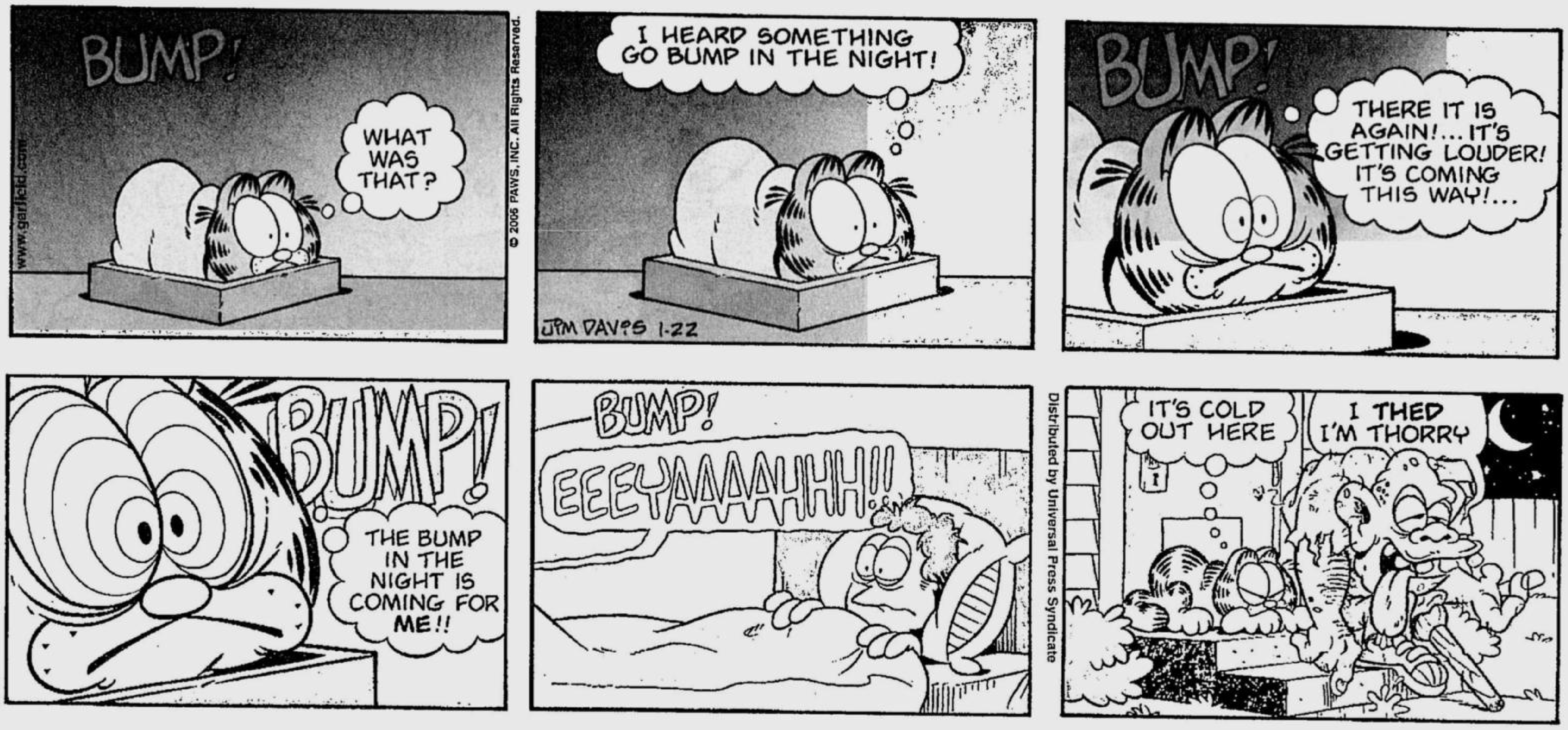
BY MANGO COMICS


MooMoo HUNTERS
Lito YONZON • Ryan VILLENA • Ace CADA
© YONZON ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE (YES!)
Sa hapag kainan...
ng pamilya delos Santos...
...At maraming salamat po sa mga kamay na naghanda ng aming pagkain...
Amen.
O, kamusta naman ang inyong bakasyon?
Gabo...?
Migo...?
Ang tahimik ni'yo yata ngayon, a.
Para kayong nakakita ng Maligno!
KAF!
KAF!
TAO PO!
TAO PO!
Ano kaya 'yon?
Parang maraming tao...
Lucio...
Bakit po, tenyente?
ITUTULOY...
ENCHANTED KINGDOM

NOW AVAILABLE FROM MANGO COMICS AND ENCHANTED KINGDOM

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


BUMP!
WHAT WAS THAT?
www.garfield.com
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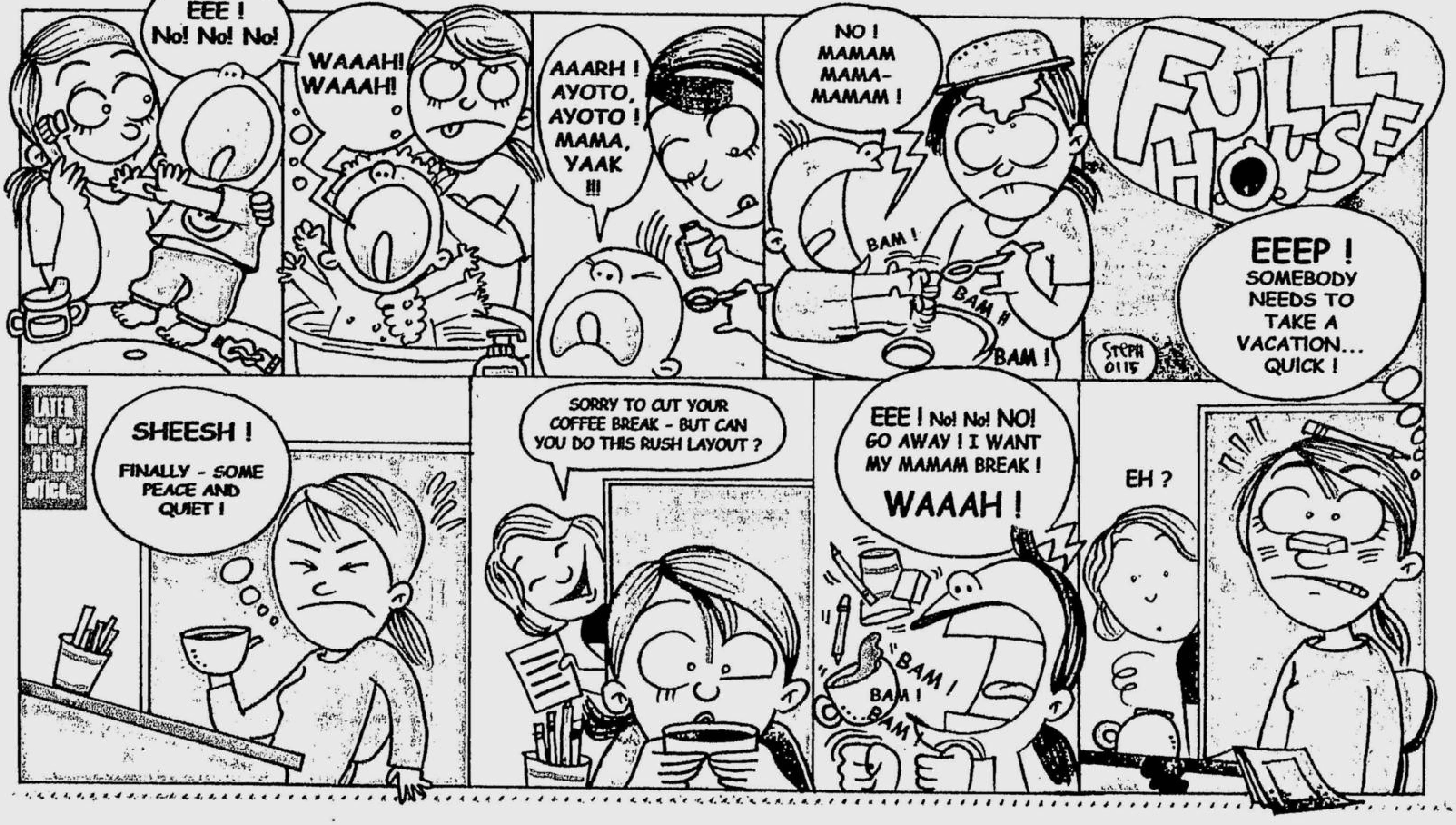
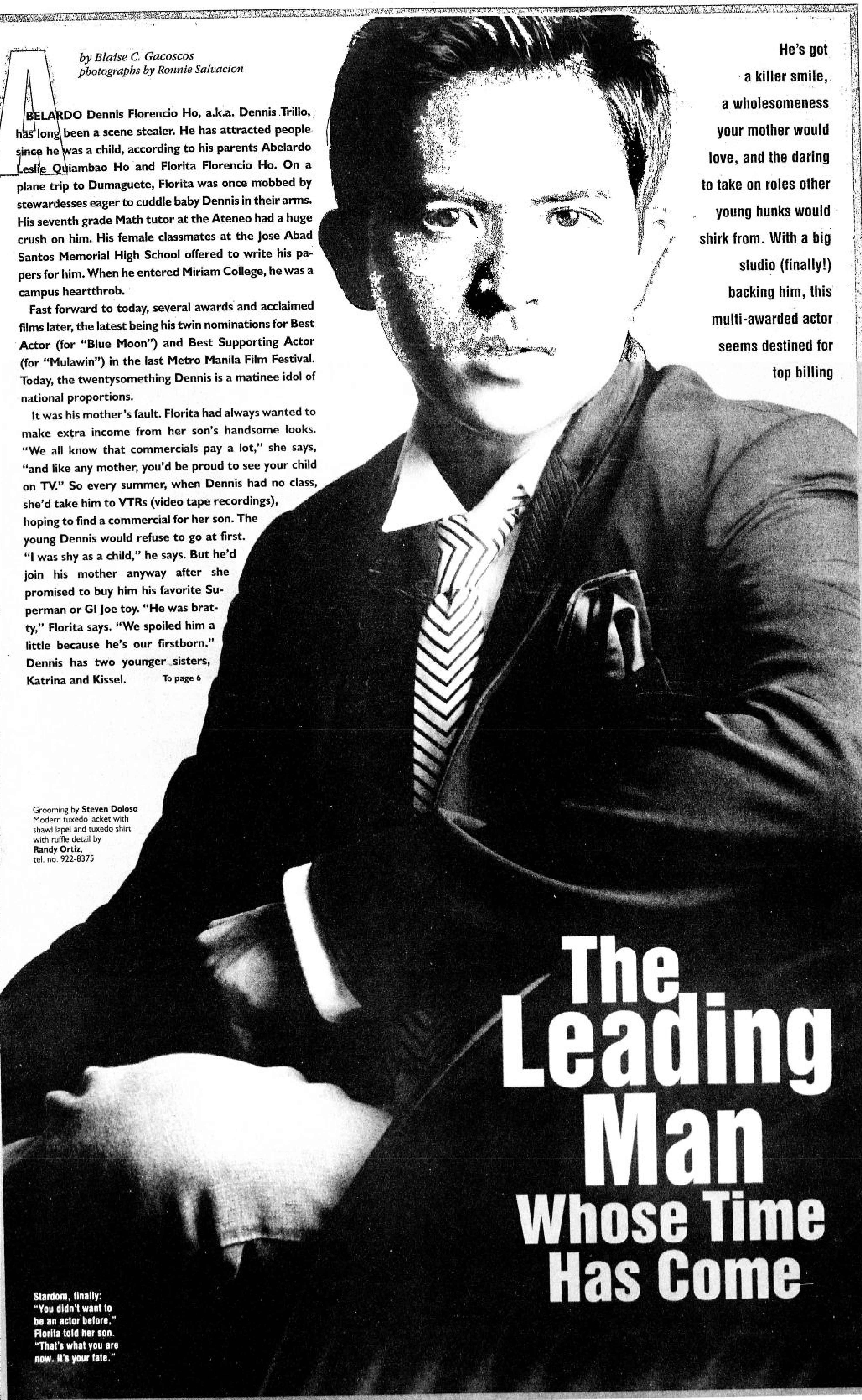
I HEARD SOMETHING GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT!
JIM DAVIS 1-22
BUMP!
THERE IT IS AGAIN!... IT'S GETTING LOUDER! IT'S COMING THIS WAY!...
BUMP!
THE BUMP IN THE NIGHT IS COMING FOR ME!!
BUMP!
EEEYAAAAHHH!!
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
IT'S COLD OUT HERE
I THED I'M THORRY

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


EEE ! No! No! No!
WAAAH! WAAAH!
AAARH ! AYOTO, AYOTO ! MAMA, YAAK !!!
NO ! MAMAM MAMA-MAMAM !
BAM !
BAM !!
BAM !
FULL HOUSE
STEPH 0115
EEEP ! SOMEBODY NEEDS TO TAKE A VACATION... QUICK !
LATER that day at the office...
SHEESH ! FINALLY - SOME PEACE AND QUIET !
SORRY TO CUT YOUR COFFEE BREAK - BUT CAN YOU DO THIS RUSH LAYOUT ?
EEE ! No! No! NO! GO AWAY ! I WANT MY MAMAM BREAK ! WAAAH !
BAM !
BAM !
BAM !
EH ?

January 22, 2006
sundayINQUIRERmagazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE



The Leading Man Whose Time Has Come

He's got a killer smile, a wholesomeness your mother would love, and the daring to take on roles other young hunks would shirk from. With a big studio (finally!) backing him, this multi-awarded actor seems destined for top billing

by Blaise C. Gacoscos
photographs by Ronnie Salvacion

ABELARDO Dennis Florencio Ho, a.k.a. Dennis Trillo, has long been a scene stealer. He has attracted people since he was a child, according to his parents Abelardo Leslie Quiambao Ho and Florita Florencio Ho. On a plane trip to Dumaguete, Florita was once mobbed by stewardesses eager to cuddle baby Dennis in their arms. His seventh grade Math tutor at the Ateneo had a huge crush on him. His female classmates at the Jose Abad Santos Memorial High School offered to write his papers for him. When he entered Miriam College, he was a campus heartthrob.

Fast forward to today, several awards and acclaimed films later, the latest being his twin nominations for Best Actor (for "Blue Moon") and Best Supporting Actor (for "Mulawin") in the last Metro Manila Film Festival. Today, the twentysomething Dennis is a matinee idol of national proportions.

It was his mother's fault. Florita had always wanted to make extra income from her son's handsome looks. "We all know that commercials pay a lot," she says, "and like any mother, you'd be proud to see your child on TV." So every summer, when Dennis had no class, she'd take him to VTRs (video tape recordings), hoping to find a commercial for her son. The young Dennis would refuse to go at first. "I was shy as a child," he says. But he'd join his mother anyway after she promised to buy him his favorite Superman or GI Joe toy. "He was bratty," Florita says. "We spoiled him a little because he's our firstborn." Dennis has two younger sisters, Katrina and Kissel.

To page 6

Grooming by **Steven Doloso**
Modern tuxedo jacket with shawl lapel and tuxedo shirt with ruffle detail by **Randy Ortiz**, tel. no. 922-8375

Stardom, finally: "You didn't want to be an actor before," Florita told her son. "That's what you are now. It's your fate."

Remembering the Lady Justice, *p.2*
The Island Doctor, *p.3*
Big Brother's Brain, *p.8*

PDI PHOTO

In Memoriam

by Flerida Ruth P. Romero

The Lady Justice Was A National Treasure

EARLY Tuesday morning, while using her nebulizer at home, Justice Celing Palma had difficulty breathing and lapsed into unconsciousness. Fortunately, her granddaughter, pulmonologist Dr. Annielou, was around.

Quickly, the family called for an ambulance from St. Luke's Medical Center, thinking that this was just one of her asthma attacks. However, unlike in the past when the ambulance would arrive in a few minutes, this time, it took 30 minutes to get to their home just two blocks away. At the hospital, the medical staff did all they could to medically revive her. The family was informed that the brain had been deprived of oxygen for almost an hour. Under similar circumstances, they were told, any patient who survives is reduced to a mere vegetable.

The huddled members of the family, daughter Pearl and son Tadeo and his wife Lita, debated whether they should ask the doctors to take extraordinary measures to revive her. But they were held back by their mother's strong injunction to spare her any more suffering if it was her time to go.

Brilliant academic record

When I rushed to her side, her condition had not improved, and a priest was administering the sacrament of extreme unction. Testing her reflexes, the doctor shook his head and told the family that they would soon administer a test to determine if she still had some brain activity. But before they could attach the electrodes to her head, all monitoring devices ceased to function. At 5:55 on the afternoon of Jan. 2, at age 92, she was gone.

My icon was gone! Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma had always been my ideal since my youthful days. I knew about her brilliant academic record at the UP College of Law. We have in our family album a picture showing two debating teams in formal attire. My late father, Pedro B. Pineda, was with the team that lost to the formidable team of then Cecilia Muñoz.

During the 31 years that Justice Muñoz Palma served in the government, of which 24 years were in the judiciary, she was an exemplary public servant—not in the traditional mold of doing what was expected of her by her superiors, but as an outspoken, articulate defender of right and righteous causes. Never mind if her stance was unpopular with the majority. As she once declared, "When matters of conscience are at issue, one must be prepared to espouse and embrace a rightful cause, however unpopular it may be."

The pioneering, late legal great, Cecilia Muñoz Palma, will be remembered for her unyielding faith, her powerful opinions, and her pivotal role in the dismantling of the Marcos dictatorship

The years that Justice Palma sat as justice of the Supreme Court, from1973 to 1978, were tumultuous ones. At every turn of the road, the justices were being prevailed upon, or more accurately, pressured, to uphold the legitimacy of President Marcos' martial law or, as he described it, "constitutional authoritarianism," an oxymoron if ever there was one.

As the first woman appointed to the High Court, Justice Palma, often with Justice Claudio Teehankee, registered vigorous, impassioned dissents in three martial law cases: the Diokno habeas corpus case that never saw the light of day but accomplished its purpose of releasing the senator after 731 days; the Ninoy Aquino case, and one on the constitutionality of the referendum on the 1973 Constitution.

PDI PHOTO

"HER baby." Turning over the 1987 Constitution to President Aquino

Explosive opinion

Her opinion on the Diokno case was written "on the run," regardless of the obvious peril to her own person and that of her family. From her office where she started writing it, Justice Palma proceeded to her son's home with her secretary Lita and the reference materials she needed. After submitting it to the office of the Chief Justice, she sought refuge in the cloisters of St. Scholastica's College, there to await developments, even as her male colleagues were frantically looking for her to head off this explosive opinion.

When her husband followed her to their son's home and inquired why she was "in hiding," she told them about her dissenting opinion and the arguments that supported it. Both husband and son then told her to go ahead with her decision. Said Dean Rodong Palma: "If this means our going to the mountains, I am ready to do so." The family had cast their lot with Justice Celing.

Upon her retirement, then Chief Justice Fred Ruiz Castro gave grudging respect to her for not being the "fragile, pampered woman" he thought she would be, but for being "independent-minded with a good reservoir of firmness."

Moment of truth

I daresay that for Justice Celing, this was her moment of truth, as she rose to the occasion unflinchingly, uncowed by the dictator.

Justice Palma is justifiably proud of her stint in the Concom and of her "ba-

To page 4

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Bisperas ng demolisyon

Niyayakap ng aking talukap ang dagat
na parang ito na ang huling pagkurap.
Nilalaro ng aking daliri ang pampang
upang igawad ang huling halik.

Sinasagap ng tenga ang bulong ng alon
Upang isubi ang ala-ala ng lahat-lahat
Sa mawawalang kabanalan ng dagat.

Mawawala ang bangka't mga putol na kahoy
na hinehele sa oyayi ng tubig-alat,
ang mga batang libreng sumisisid,
nagtatampisaw, dinadanas
sa malaking danaw ang musmos
na ligalig at pangamba

Oo, dito sa birheng dagat
Na may mala-perlas na binti't
sumusuyong mga ngiti
Lilisan ang ganda ng Looc
Lilisan ito at hindi na magbabalik
Huhubdan siya't
Dudukutin ang kanyang suso
Papasakan ang ari't
Bubunutin isa-isa ang bulbol.

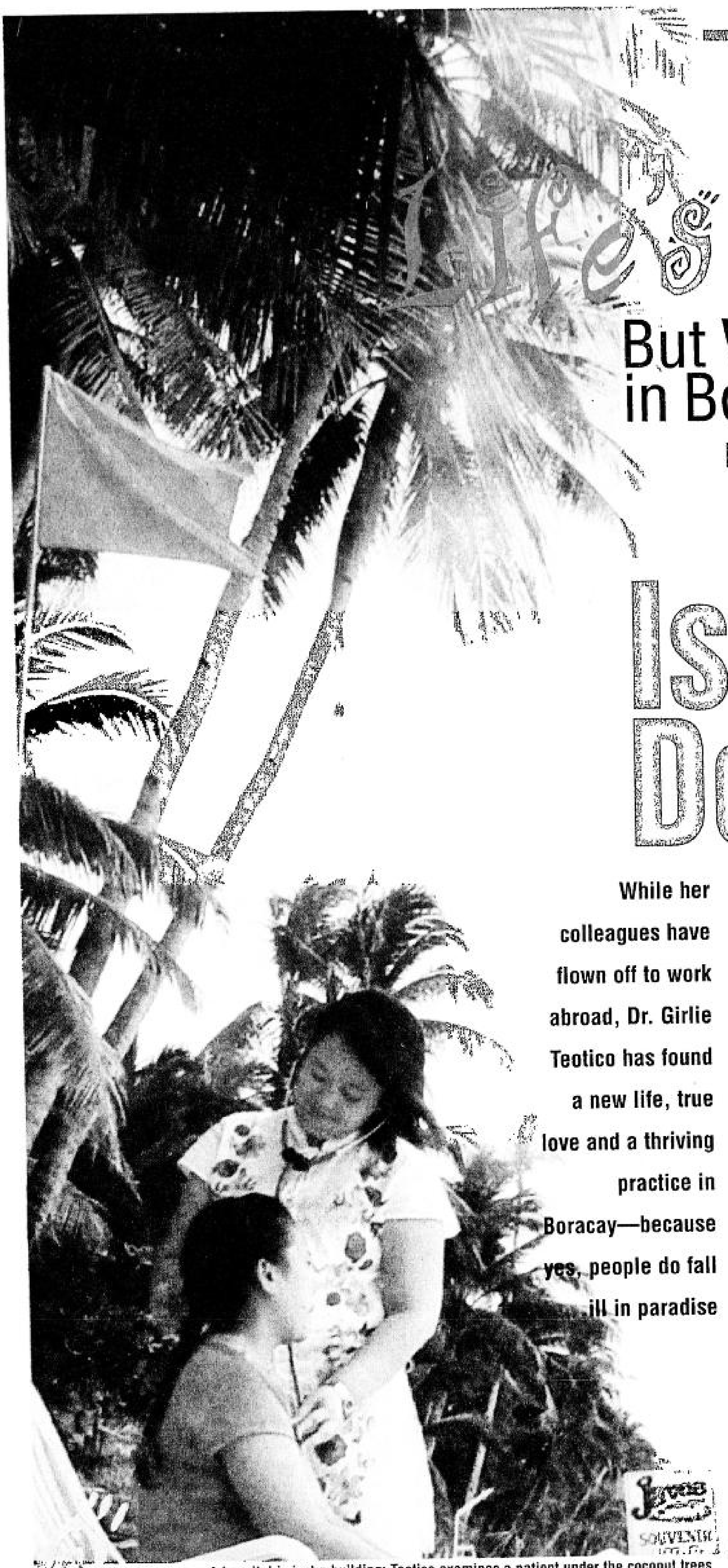
Wala kang magagawa
kundi ang yumukod at humalik
sa dagat
wala kang magagawa
kundi ang manalangin.

Niña Catherine Calleja

by Alya B. Honasan

Life's a Beach—But When You Get Sick in Boracay, Go See The Island Doctor

DR. HENRI CO



While her colleagues have flown off to work abroad, Dr. Girlie Teotico has found a new life, true love and a thriving practice in Boracay—because yes, people do fall ill in paradise

A hospital is just a building: Teotico examines a patient under the coconut trees

SOME doctors have all the luck. Most of them end a day of consultations by getting into a car and driving off into some traffic-choked highway. For 33-year-old Maria Cristina "Girlie" Teotico, otherwise known as Doc Girlie, leaving her clinic means traipsing a short distance to one of the most beautiful beaches on earth. For this island doctor, work means curing the sick of Boracay, whether they be sun-stroked vacationers or sick children from poor communities on the other side of the popular vacation spot.

Children first brought this member of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine Class of 1997 to her postcard-pretty home turf.

She was still in medical school, having graduated cum laude from her pre-med biology course, when she first set foot on the white sand. It was for a day of R and R after an immersion program for the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War in Ibajay, Aklan in 1996. "We had visited children of war, kids whose parents were involved in the local conflict then between the NPA and the army, to try and see how this affected them in their daily lives," Teotico recounts.

Huge impression

The visit made such a huge impression on her that later, feeling restless, she would cut short her residency at the Philippine General Hospital (PGH), where she was training to become a surgeon, to eventually open the Metropolitan Doctors Medical Clinic in Boracay in 1999.

Teotico would later become the first Filipina to train in Hyperbaric Medicine at Hyperbarics International in Key Largo, Florida and the Hyperbaric Unit at the Albert Hospital in Melbourne, Australia. It's a specialization that comes in handy when faced with the possibility of scuba diving accidents as tourists descend upon Boracay every year.

"The island is a social equalizer," Teotico notes. "Rich or poor, everyone is barefoot, walking around enjoying sun, sand, wind and nature. There is no other place in the Philippines where you are not judged by what car you drive and what brand you are wearing, but simply for who you are and how you treat the people around you. For me, this is one of the great attractions of the island." It helps that all patients across the board also get treated to Teotico's wonderful bedside manner, what with her soft, sing-song voice and gentle touch.

With the clinic open 24 hours, she handles a wide variety of illnesses, and has had to think out of the box. "Apart from the run-of-the-mill coughs, colds and diarrhea, we've have viral myocarditis, viral encephalitis, deep vein thrombosis, strokes, heart attacks." But she frequently reminds herself that a hospital is "just a building," Teotico says. "If you have the right personnel and the right equipment, much of what can be done in the hospital can be done outside of it."

Thus, she has conducted CPR and delivered babies on the beach, and sutured lacerations on the dance floor "because the patient refused to leave the bar!" That's why there's no such thing as a really "normal" day. But practice here has its rewards. "There is something about working in a small community where people know you and you know everyone. You are really part of their lives."

City girl

Boracay seems an unlikely address for this erstwhile city girl, who was born and raised in Sta. Cruz, Manila by her mother after her father died when she was just a toddler. "My mom was really a big influence in my decision to take up medicine," she says. "Every time she would introduce me to her friends, she would always say, 'This is my daughter Girlie, she's going to be a doctor when she grows up.' It was very effective conditioning."

As a child, she already loved the beach, and remembers sunburns acquired during family jaunts to Matabungkay. Participation in outreach and mission work during high school at St. Scholastica's prepared her for medical outreach and immersion programs in med school, which saw her living in coastal towns like Molinete in Laurel, Batangas, at the foot of Taal Lake, and Dumaran Island in Palawan.

"Adjusting to life on an island was not as hard as people think it was. Fate was kind enough to prepare me."

Fate has also given Teotico other reasons to cherish the island, as she met her husband, "the love of my life," pilot and businessman Rolly Ching, right there on the beach. "The funny thing is that my husband is also from Manila, and would often visit the places that I frequented, but here is where our paths crossed." It wasn't love at first sight, but he was persistent, and the two were married on the beach in 2000.

DR. CARLO MATAVERDE

Today, it's sort of a long-distance thing; Ching is based in Manila and comes to Boracay twice a month, while Teotico goes to Manila once a month, although they talk every day. "We're like boyfriend and girlfriend," she says. She's also a doting mom to her stepkids, Ching's children Don, Mickey and Maxine, aged 10, 9 and 7, who go to school in Boracay. "They have really been such a blessing in my life," Teotico says, "and I love them dearly."

Medical missions

Although being a doctor is "a 24/7 job," there's much time for recreation. When she's not seeing patients, Teotico does yoga, scuba dives, takes walks on the beach and never gets tired of watching the sunset. She has also been the moving force behind a regular medical mission among Aklan's poorer communities, bringing in her colleagues from PGH and looking for resorts to sponsor the doctors' board and lodging. The first time Teotico got the mission together, 17 doctors were able to treat 400 patients. The mission is now on its sixth year, and Teotico treats it like a promise that she keeps, in return for all the happiness she has found in Boracay.

To be sure, paradise isn't always perfect. "I do get cabin fever every so often, as there are just some days when you wish there wasn't any sand on your bed, and you miss going to the mall. But it helps that Manila is just an hour away. It also helps when my friends come over to visit and I take them around. It makes me realize how blessed I am, and this stops me from taking things for granted."

Teotico also appreciates the many different perspectives she has been exposed to in Boracay, and considers her work as resident doctor at the world-class Mandala Spa a big eye-opener. "It opened my eyes to a different aspect of delivering health care. As a doctor trained in western medicine, I was trained to use logic and science to investigate and explain phenomena. But we must treat our patients as a whole, and not just look at the disease."

Combining Western and alternative medicine has helped her treat patients better, she says; the two schools of thought are not contradictory but complementary.

Thus, Teotico is likely to prescribe herbal supplements along with standard medications, and suggests organic fare over chemically-loaded food. For clients undergoing Mandala's acclaimed and occasionally life-changing detox programs, Teotico is on call, monitoring vital signs and offering encouragement as their bodies adjust to the cleanup.

A child of her own

Like other Boracay denizens, Teotico is concerned with the rising number of tourists and the rapid development, but is optimistic that people are doing their jobs. She dreams of a world-class emergency facility for acutely ill patients, to keep them stable until they can be transferred. It's not a tall order, considering that Teotico brought an ambulance to Boracay even before the local health centers had one.

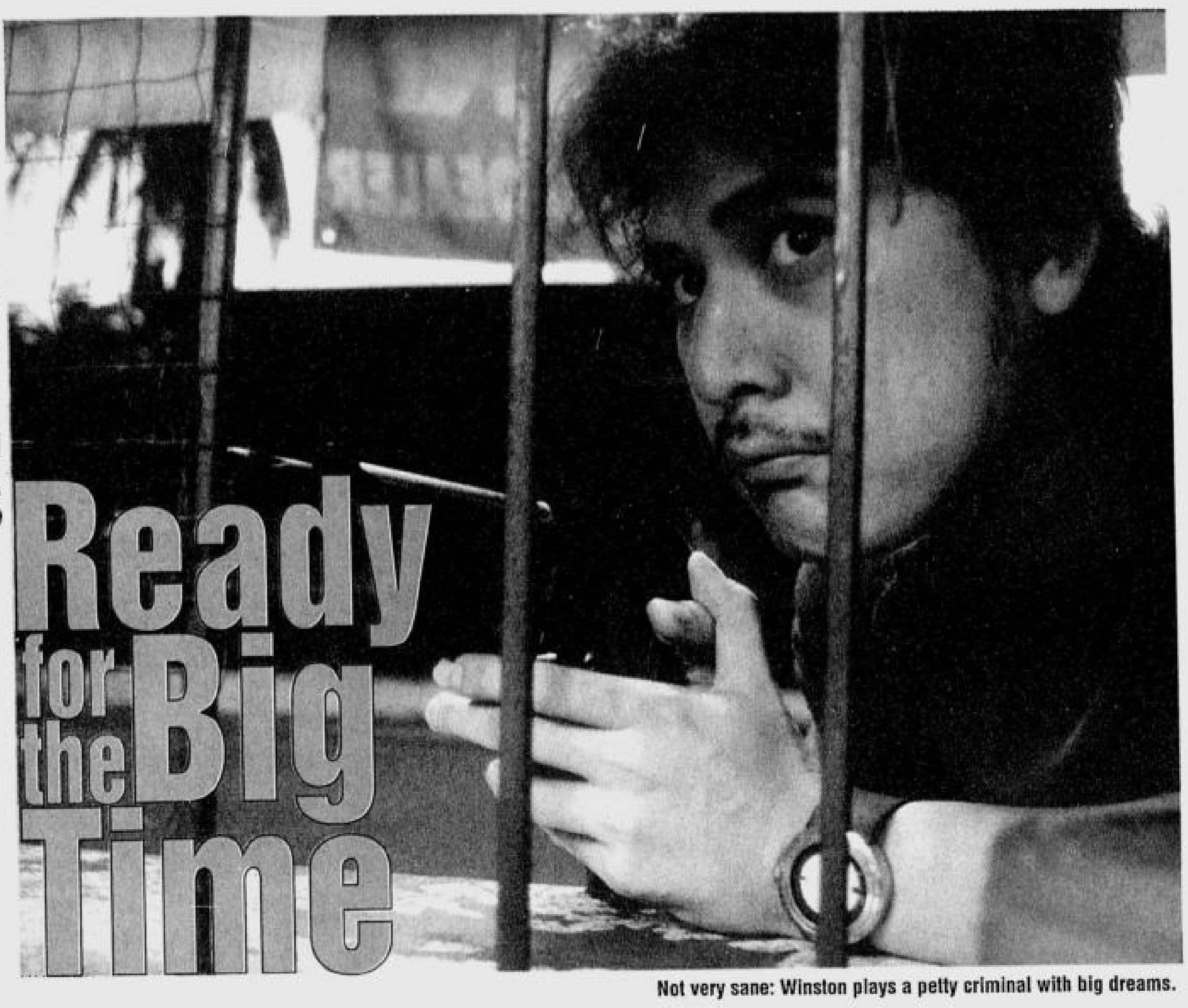
On the personal front? "I still want to have a child of my own," she says. "But that's all in God's time."

To this day, people still ask why she chose Boracay, and the question still makes Teotico pensive. "Early in my life, even when everyone else was planning to go to the States, I knew I wanted to practice in the province, though I never thought I would be practicing in paradise. Now that I'm here, I can't imagine being anywhere else." Does that mean Doc Girlie will be here forever? "Can someone live anywhere else other than her home? The island is my home, and this is where I will be, until forces tell me otherwise. I believe that you are never in the wrong place at the wrong time. Fate brought me here, and until my purpose has been fulfilled, this is where I will stay." ■

by Ces Rodriguez

photographs by August dela Cruz

This Seventh Day Adventist cum Bold Star is Ready for the Big Time



Not very sane: Winston plays a petty criminal with big dreams.

Seiko Films discovery Winston Elizalde was known mainly for skin movies like "*Itlog*," that had his religious elders praying over him. In the indie hit, "Big Time," he finally got to show his acting chops

WINSTON Elizalde is such a made-up name, it's hard to take the guy attached to it seriously at all.

In fact, it was a lot easier to address him as Danny, the character he plays in the Cinemalaya independent movie, "Big Time," due for commercial release in its original digital format in selected SM cinemas on Jan. 25.

But the actor, best known for Seiko oeuvres like "*Itlog*," movies that, he admits, embarrass him only "*pag may* pimple *yung pwet ko* (when I have pimples on my ass)," doesn't really mind. After all, the role of Danny just might fasttrack him into the big time.

First screened in October last year during the first Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, "Big Time" became the across-the-board favorite, scoring with the critics who described it as "Hip, whip-smart," (Gibbs Cadiz, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*), "dark, irreverent comedy" (Tessa Jazmines, *Variety* Magazine), and "a movie that doesn't oversell a joke or rely on slapstick."

The movie, about two petty criminals who wanted to hit the big time by planning a kidnapping that went awry, "was supposed to be a different movie, with Ryan Eigenmann in Winston's role," says first-time film director Mario Cornejo, 30, who also wrote the script with Coreen "Monster" Jimenez, 30. But Eigenmann was unavailable for the seven-day shoot, forcing Cornejo to call for auditions.

"In our minds, the dialogue was kinda *kenkoy* (funny), but a little *pa*-cool. Then this guy Winston came in and when he read it, the tone of the movie changed. It became more streetwise, more Pinoy, and not so cool anymore."

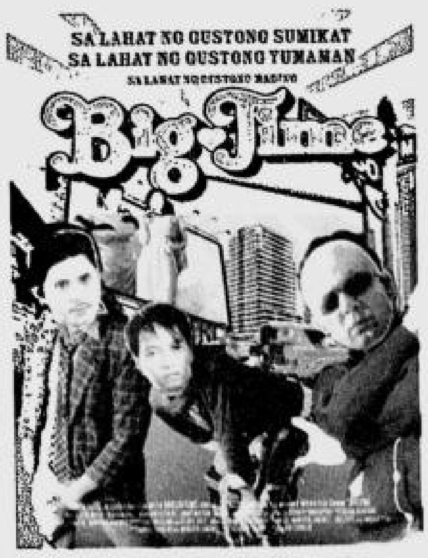
Nor Domingo, who plays Danny's cohort in the movie, was around when Winston read for the part. When he left, Nor exclaimed, "*S'an nanggaling yon?!?* (Where'd he come from?)"

A bit of craziness

It was Seiko boss Robbie Tan, who also volunteered to line-produce for the Cinemalaya festival, who asked Winston to audition for the role.

"I knew when I was reading the script that they needed someone who is, number one, not *sosi* (refined). And he has to have a certain kind of ..." Robbie gropes for words. "*May konting katok* (a bit of craziness)?" And Winston's persona, he adds breezily, "was not very sane. Shall I say he has a borderline personality complex? But he's a very good actor."

Indeed, the 6'2" mestizo with the mullet hairstyle is a natural, demonstrating comic timing and unusual depth in the movie. In fact, one almost dares compare him with the early Bembol Roco, angel-faced with a darkly bubbling murk beneath the surface.



SA LAHAT NG GUSTONG SUMIKAT
SA LAHAT NG GUSTONG YUMAMAN
Big Time

Across-the-board favorite: The poster for "Big Time"

"When you're acting, you must feel it; it must not look like acting," he says, speaking mainly in Filipino and toying with a cigarette he couldn't smoke inside the air-conditioned Seiko office in Quezon City.

Not that Winston wings it. In fact, both Robbie and Mario credit him with fastidiousness. "He has to know his role first and then understand it before he is able to accept it," observes Robbie. "He asks a lot of questions."

During the "Big Time" shoot, Winston would encircle the English words he couldn't understand in Mario's and Monster's directorial notes, with the corresponding dictionary definition beside it.

"I don't want to be a trying-hard hypocrite so I looked up the words in the dictionary," he says. " I don't want to speak words I don't understand. *Kahit na ganito akong simpleng tao na hindi magaling sa* English, *partikular ako doon.* (Even if I'm a simple person and not good in English, I'm particular about that.) I cannot accept anything I don't know."

"*Uy, Ingles yon ah,*" someone in the room comments.

It could've been funny, in a Jimmy Santos kind of way, but it wasn't. Winston, earlier frantic, cracking wise-ass jokes and zooming ahead of the photographer after espying a *sari-sari* store for the pictorial of this story, had reverted to a quick but short-lived brood.

Child-like puzzlement

Brooding seems part of the Winston Elizalde story. And with reason. He was born Robert Aviles on Feb. 12, 1975, the illegitimate child of a physical therapist who worked for the Red Cross. Although he has learned to make friends with his half-siblings, he admits that his mother never really recovered from the betrayal. "Her life was effectively ruined," he says in Filipino. "She had pinned all her hopes on my father and she couldn't believe that this would happen to her. *Hindi naman siya masamang tao* (She wasn't a bad person)."

This almost child-like puzzlement that good people could suffer bad karma would recur throughout his life, riven further by the dichotomies of his strict upbringing as a Seventh Day Adventist and the career he chose for himself.

Sometimes, he said, the congregation would visit his home in Bulacan where they would convince the actor to give up his worldly career. "They would pray over me," he admits. "I thank them, but sometimes I'd get depressed and I'd just cry. It was like I'm really evil, like I've killed somebody or sold drugs."

Which accounts too for his spotty showbiz career. Winston was discovered by directors Maryo J. delos Reyes and Clod Robinson as a high school student at Jose Rizal College in Mandaluyong. Under Maryo's tutelage, Winston, who then went by his real name, worked for Regal, and was often cast in villain roles in a number of action drama movies including "*Sambahin ang Ngalan Mo*" with Eddie Garcia and Jomari Yllana and "*Kahit Kailan*" with Richard Gomez. "*Ako yung pumapatay doon sa bida* (I'm the bad guy who kills the lead actor")," he says.

Sounding rich

Winston says that it was former Abante editor Roger Parajes who brought him to the Seiko fold where the redoubtable Robbie Tan gave him his name.

"Dante Balboa would have been my screen name, but Robbie said we'd go for Elizalde so I would sound rich. Then Winston, after the word win, it was a winner, he said."

He did the aforementioned "*Itlog*" for Seiko and "Liberated 1," and had a small part in "Bridal Shower 3."

Such roles caused much more handwringing in his Adventist community and has kept Winston in frequent disappearing acts, trying to balance his duties to religion with his duties to self.

"It was really difficult because (the bold roles) were forbidden by my religion," he says. "But the laws of God and the laws of men are different. I respect them and I think they're good, understanding and forgiving, but this is my personal business. I tell them that I believe in God but I have to do this. "

In fact, Winston may actually be only half-joking when he says that "God's means of relaxing you is to ask you to jog; man's ways are to drink coffee, smoke cigarettes, stuff that actually harm our bodies."

Even if "Big Time" doesn't exactly push Winston Elizalde into the, well, big time, in spite of the depth of his performance, his role has at least offered some kind of peace to his mother who approves of his new associations.

And, perhaps, so will the public. Even if he sticks to his made-up name. ◼

Cecilia

...from page 2

by," the 1987 Constitution. To her goes the credit for shepherding Article XV on the family, which declares it as "the foundation of the Nation, and the State shall promote its total development." I recall how she urged the women commissioners and those of us in the secretariat work to include it in the draft Constitution, with the threat to the male commissioners that we would walk out if it were excluded.

Indeed, Justice Celing can be considered a "national treasure" for upholding Filipino womanhood. Proving that gender was no barrier to excellence on the job, she quickly rose through the ranks, from being the first woman appointed assistant fiscal in Quezon City, first woman judge of the Court of First Instance, second woman Justice of the Court of Appeals and finally, the first woman justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines.

Hacking away

While other women have followed in her footsteps, Justice Palma, as trailblazer, will always be remembered for hacking away at the iron-clad barriers imposed by tradition, culture, religion and law to keep women at bay.

But work was not all there was to Justice Palma. Although law and justice claimed her as their own, she never forsook her love for music following her patroness, St. Cecilia. Even as she applied herself to the exacting task of crafting decisions that spoke of her erudition, love for truth and compassion, she also pursued her apostolate, playing the organ at the Ateneo Chapel, then in Padre Faura, Manila.

Magnificent endeavors: The portrait of Justice Palma displayed at her wake

If Justice Celing had succeeded in her magnificent endeavors, much credit should be given her supportive family, especially husband Dean Rodong Palma. I guess that Justice Celing decided to slip away quietly because she wanted to celebrate their 68th wedding anniversary the following Monday, Jan. 9, in the spirit world.

There in the Elysian fields, where the grass grows greener and the air is purer, Divine Justice awaits her. ◼

For A Cause

She Found A New Life Saving Little Lives in the Philippines

After terrible personal loss, this dental technician relocated to the Philippines and has since discovered a compelling calling in fighting for the cause of children and animals

by Bibsy M. Carballo
photographs by Raffy Lerma

HER two boys drowned in a freak vehicular accident when their car fell into a ravine. Then she lost her husband Harold to bone cancer. Broken and devastated, she found herself staring in the dark at the end of the day, waiting for nothing. She felt "it was either a life of this, or flying off to the Philippines for a month-long company posting that might help break the depression," she says.

This, to Wilma Redler, was a decision that would change her life. Not only did she stay in the Philippines—she's going on her 10th year here—but has come to love it, its challenges, its many faults and deficiencies, its people.

Work in the Skytech International Dental laboratory started off dramatically enough. Three weeks upon arrival in Manila from the United States, a supervisor at the lab, perhaps resenting the invasion of Americans, specifically Wilma and the new owner, decided to take over the lab with the aid of armed goons. She ensconced herself inside the lab, and the mutineers were denied entry.

Shortly after that, Wilma was told that there was a contract on her life. While fighting the takeover, Wilma stayed in the homes of workers who offered to protect her.

Touched to the bone

"The concern of these people touched me to the bone," she says. "They shared everything with me. If they had a last piece of bread, they gave it to me. I will never, ever forget that experience."

After three months, Wilma and company won the case, and her job at Skytech was secure. Her personal healing process was well on its way.

Meeting abused children from the squatters' area near her home in Parañaque helped her forget her own problems. She would stop and give them food, until these initial encounters led to her meeting the parents—the fathers were usually jobless drunks, and their mothers, abused and beaten.

Her heart went out to the children, and with the help of the Department of Social Welfare and Development and Bantay Bata, she decided to rescue them. The children are brought to her home, fed and clothed, provided with education and smothered with love.

Wilma has had as many as nine children living with her at one time or another. However, she has no plans of adopting them. "At my age," she says, "it would be foolish for me to adopt children." She nurtures them for others, and seeks out adoptive parents who can provide them with love and protection.

Six-year-old Edward Mabag goes to a Montessori school and speaks impeccable English. He and his three-year-old brother Edison currently live with Wilma, but they go home to their parents occasionally so as not to break the bond.

Margie, 13, and Angelo, 11, were siblings who came to live with Wilma when they were 5 and 7. Margie had been sexually abused by an uncle and could not speak for six months. Sarah lived in a *kariton* (cart) with her mother and her mother's boyfriend. Then there were Susan and Ella, Brian and Teresa, Angel and Christian. They have all gone to foster parents, although Wilma maintains an educational trust fund for all the children who have lived with her.

Let them go

Isn't it painful to know that she will lose them eventually? She smiles through moist eyes, saying, "If you love them, you have to let them go."

These adoptive children share the woman's home with a dozen or more birds and animals that Wilma provides with the same love and compassion she gives the children. There is nothing she wouldn't do for them. She has been known to wake up in the middle of the night to answer the call of a suffering animal. She would go to great lengths to save a sick bird.

While at the Calauit Game Preserve and Wildlife Sanctuary in Palawan, Wilma sought out sick animals needing her assistance. She utilizes her expertise in dental technology and avian veterinary science to pursue her interest in birds and exotic animals. She founded the Feathered Friends Foundation in 1999 to address the needs of birds, and set up an aviary on Corregidor Island.

After meeting wildlife veterinarian Dr. Nielsen Donato, who shares her energy and compassion for animals, Wilma was soon making dental crowns for mountain cats and jaguars; repairing damaged turtle backs with denture acrylic; creating beaks for birds; and doing dental fillings for orangutans and orthodontics for dogs. These are experimental pioneering ventures worthy of documentation in any scientific publication.

Up in arms

Ever a fighter for animal rights, Wilma has been helping prevent the capture and eating of endangered animals since 2000. She was again recently up in arms against exotic restaurants offering lizards, birds, pythons, dogs and wild boar as part of their menu. She has succeeded in some cases.

Answering a call from animal lovers, Wilma one day found herself at the Manila City Pound to stop the mass electrocution of dogs and cats. "This is so inhumane. Other countries have already banned electrocuting dogs," she says.

As the new president of the Rotary Club of United Nations, Wilma, together with Rotarian friends and travel executives Wally Trinidad and Lito Cariño, continues to offer education and livelihood to the poorest of the poor among the Mangyans of Mindoro.

A month ago, still another dream of hers was realized that may offer opportunities for jobs abroad to many—the first international Dental Technology Institute in the country, in partnership with the Emilio Aguinaldo College of Dentisty on San Marcelino, Manila.

To Wilma, there are many more endangered animals to rescue, many more abused children to save, many more dreams to realize. "I am not needed in the United States. It is here that I can be of help. It is here that I can be happy."

GIVING love and compassion: Wilma Redler offers shelter and care to rescued children and all sorts of animals in need

Auspicious beginings: Second from right, with the cast of the hit series "Mulawin"

Multi-awarded: Giving thanks at the 2005 Luna awards

Soon after, the mother-and-son partnership proved lucrative, which, of course, meant more toys for the young Dennis. He started appearing in commercials like PLDT, Mitsubishi Lancer and PCI Bank. When he grew into his teens, he became the lead in such commercials as Wendy's, Maggie's *champurado* and *arroz caldo* campaigns, Aboitiz Express Padala, and others. He went from Smart print ad to Globe TV commercial, and flashed his Close Up smile at everyone.

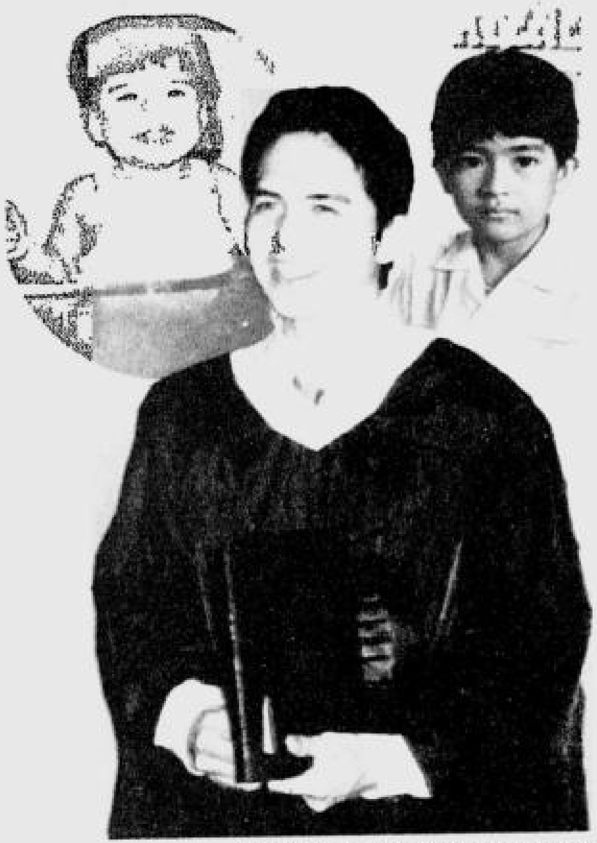
Star Circle

It was these numerous ads that paved the way for his discovery by ABS-CBN. In October 2001, he was formally launched as a member of Talent Center's Star Circle Batch 10. He made the rounds of TV appearances, from the now-defunct "The *Pilya* and the Pilot," starring Aga Muhlach and Joyce Jimenez, to "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan" as Luis Alandy's waiter-friend, to the short-lived "K2BU," where he was paired with fellow batch 10 member Bea Alonzo. He stayed with Talent Center for two years, but nothing much happened to his showbiz career.

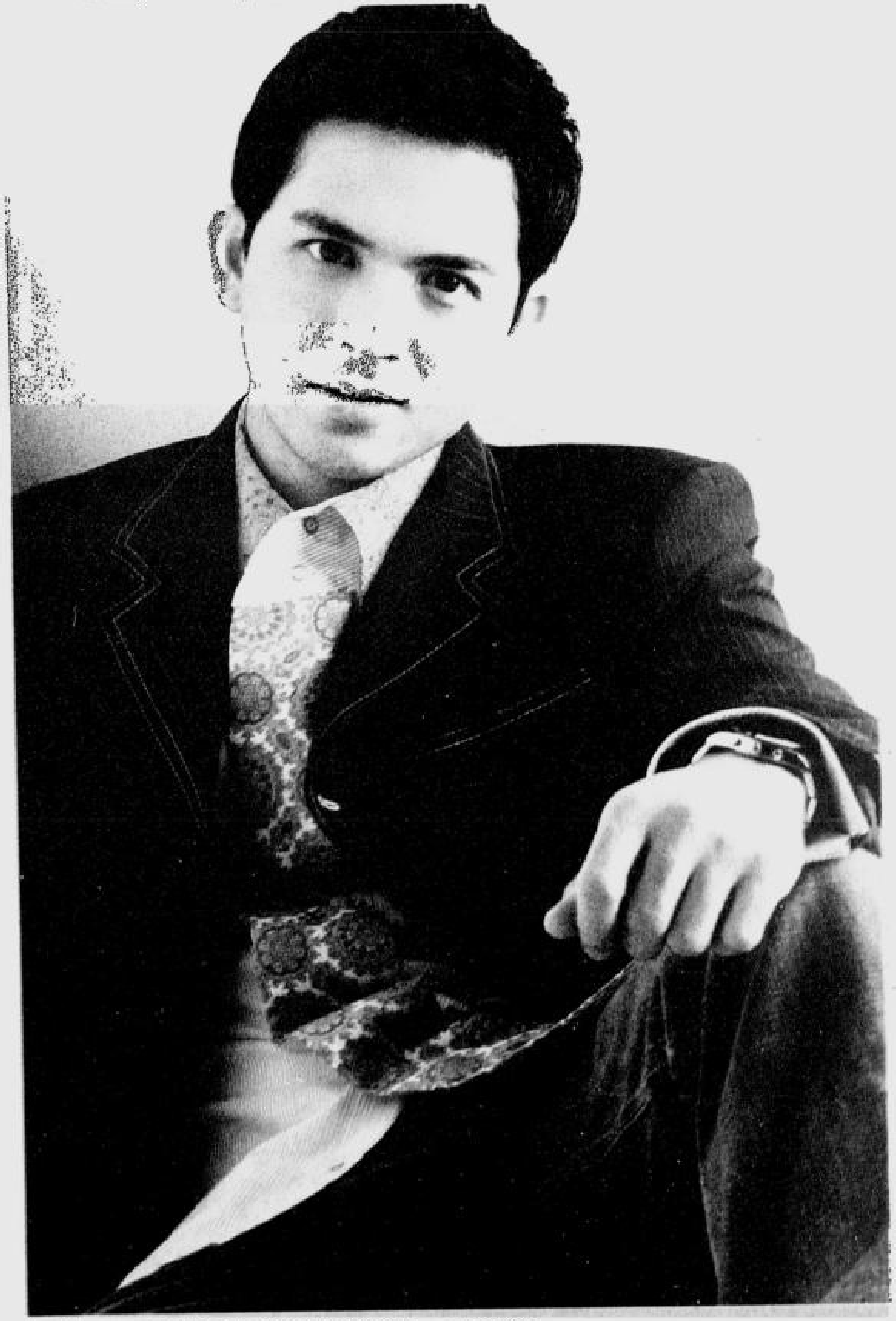
"At ABS-CBN, if you don't have the backing of an executive, your career will go nowhere," states Dennis' dad Abelardo says candidly. "Dennis never had one, and that's why he was left behind."

"The people behind Star Circle had their own favorites," Dennis explains. "This made the levels of competition high. And if you're shy like me, you'd feel intimidated by the big stars they handle." Even today, "He only speaks when you talk to him," Abelardo says of his son. "He's the reserved type."

"I never aspired to become a star," Dennis says, "but because of my disheartening experience with the network, I told myself, 'One day, things will change. I *will* become a star.'"



Small scene-stealer: (Clockwise from top left) Dennis as a cute one-year-old; as a serious gradeschooler at the Ateneo; finishing his International Studies degree at Miriam College



ABS-CBN made no comment on the matter.

"I never aspired to become a star," Dennis continues, "but because of my disheartening experience with the network, I told myself, 'One day, things will change. I *will* become a star."

Florita is diplomatic about the whole thing, and says she always reminds her son of his beginnings. "Don't forget to appreciate what they've done for you."

"I know that without Mommy telling me," Dennis says perfunctorily. "I started with them. I learned a lot from their basic acting and voice drama workshops. These strengthened my foundation as an actor, but GMA gave me the break."

On April 2, 2003, Dennis signed a contract with talent manager Popoy Caritativo, and the very next day, he showed up on the set of "Kahit Kailan" for his first taping day.

Dennis' big breaks came in 2004. He got a major role in "Mulawin," a fantasy-adventure show, co-starring with Richard Gutierrez and Angel Locsin. When "Mulawin" became a success on primetime TV, Dennis zoomed to prominence.

At the end of the year, Dennis portrayed a gay character who captures the heart of a Japanese soldier in *"Aishite Imasu."* Because of his daring performance in the period movie, Dennis reaped a total of 10 acting awards from every major award-giving body in the industry. Not bad for the kid whose career was off to a slow start.

Caritativo concludes, "'Mulawin' made him a star, 'Aishite Imasu' established him as an actor."

Dramatic headliner

These days, studios are busy lining up projects for Dennis, who could very well be the most formidable young dramatic headliner since Aga Muhlach. This year, says Caritativo, Regal Films matriarch Lily Monteverde is contemplating a Dennis-Angel love team for a youth-oriented movie. "This is not a long-term plan, because Dennis is already past the age of cutie-cutie roles," he says. "We'll just do this to satisfy the fans. We'll try to commercialize Dennis a bit, but he won't stop doing edgy roles because that's what he really wants to do."

GMA has "big plans" for Dennis, too.

"Since he started with us, he's been given meaty roles, but not the lead," says Wilma V. Galvante, GMA's senior vice president for entertainment TV. "This year, if plans materialize, he will have a lead role. In a span of two years, he's risen to become not only a matinée idol, but also one of the best actors that we have."

Hottest male star

Fans appear to be just as enthusiastic. Three months ago, Dennis had a pleasant surprise. In the new survey and trivia show called *"Ang Pinaka...,"* he was chosen the hottest male star. The show, aired on QTV (a station run by GMA), invited nine panelists: TV directors Soxy Topacio and Louie Ignacio, Cosmopolitan Philippines' editors Ianne Evangelista, Donna Pita and Zo Aguila, S magazine editor Erwin Santiago, "Starstruck" finalist LJ Reyes, comedian IC Mendoza and his mother, INQUIRER columnist Dolly Ann Carvajal.

"Ang Pinaka..." cowriter Augie Rivera sums up their criteria for judging: "Most of the panelists didn't only base their answers on looks, but also on substance. He must be somebody who can act well, who's willing to do daring roles, and somebody they can bring home to mother—it's the complete package."

Dennis couldn't believe it. He was surprised that Richard Gutierrez, who was perceived as a shoo-in winner, only ranked third in the poll. In second place was Alfred Vargas. Clearly, he's still getting used to the attention. "I feel so proud," he says. "It's the first time I ever topped a survey."

"We are happy because there are still people who see beyond the hype," says Caritativo. "I'm not saying that Richard is all hype. What I'm saying is that these people saw the potential in Dennis, they saw what he can do and what he can give. And they appreciate it."

To this day, Dennis Trillo doesn't seem to realize how immensely popular he's become. What he knows for sure is that it would take more than a lifetime to repay those who've made him so. He can start by simply doing what he does best. "This is the career that I'm going to pursue," he says, "because only a few are given these chances." ◘

This Week

Art

The Alcove Photo Gallery features **"The turn of the century: Filipinas circa 1890 to 1910,"** a collection of photographs taken during the colonial period and the beginning of the Philippine Republic. The exhibit runs until Jan. 31. The Alcove Photo Gallery is located at the Filipinas Heritage Library along Makati Ave., Ayala Triangle, Makati. The gallery is open Tuesdays to Saturdays, from 9 p.m. to 6 p.m. For more details, please call 892-1801, e-mail events@fllb.org.ph or visit www.filipinaslibrary.org.ph.

The Japan Foundation Manila will hold a traveling exhibit featuring 70 Japanese dolls on Jan. 27 to Feb 5 at The Promenade, Riverbanks Center, Marikina City. **"The Dolls of Japan, Shapes of Prayer Embodiments of Love"** will showcase Japanese dolls as it reflects the customs of Japan and the aspiration of its people. The event is also held in line with the Philippine-Japan Friendship Year. For inquiries, call 811-6155 or visit www.jfmo.org.ph.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts through the Tunugan Foundation, Inc. and in cooperation with the National Parks Development Committee, will launch the National Arts Month with the theme **Ani ng Sining 2006**, a celebration of the country's bountiful harvest in the arts at the Luneta Park on Feb. 4 and 5 from 6 p.m. to midnight.

Among the featured performances are those of the internationally recognized Benny Sokkong and the Cordillera Ethnic Music Ensemble, Celso Espejo Rondalla, Pangkat Kawayan, Earthsavers Kalahi Dream Academy, Ramon Magsaysay Choir, St. Louie University Glee Club, the acclaimed Philippine Madrigal Singers, Makiling Ensemble and the UP Singing Ambassadors who recently won the gold in the 2005 Habanera Competitions of Spain. For inquiries, please call 926-0028.

SinagTala, in conjunction with Lilacsounds, opens its 2006 Concert Season with **"Love Comes Home: a Pre-Valentine Concert"** on Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m. at the CCP Little Theater. Featuring blind pianist and tenor Carlos "Chuckie" Ibay and Toronto-based soprano, Lilac Caña

For more information and for reservations, please call SinagTala at 726-1297 or 726-1567 or the CCP boxoffice at 832 -1125.

Filipinas circa 1890 to 1910 at the Filipinas Heritage Library's Alcove Photo Gallery

Music

Kalapana in Manila. The popular '70s, Hawaii-based pop rock band Kalapana will be staging a Valentine's Day Concert at the PICC on Feb. 13 and 14, and at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City on Feb. 15. For ticket inquiries, call Ticketworld at 891-9999. For reservations, call 871-7577 ot 871-7577.

Acid jazz. Funk. Ska. Bossa nova. Taste what **Makopa** has to offer at their EP launch—8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27 at Cafe Saguijo. The Makopets are all from the UP Music Circle: Nika Espinosa on vocals, Ime Bala-an on bass, Lynn Ramos and RB Pineda on guitar, Jason Asistores on keyboards, Alay Magno on percussion. Entrance fee is P100, with free drink included. SaGuijo Cafe 'and Bar is located atGuijo St., San Antonio Village, Makati City. See www.saguijo.com for more details.

"Stand Up for Love," a fund-raising concert featuring Hangad and the Gawad Kalinga Prayer Mountain community, on Feb. 5 (Sunday), 6-8 p.m. at St. Joseph's Theater in La Salle Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. Tickets at P250, available at the GK head office (CFC Center, Ortigas Ave.) and at Ateneo de Manila University's Campus Ministry Office and Jesuit Communication office.

Onstage

Queen It's A Kinda Magic, the critically acclaimed threatical rock production based on Queen's headline 1986 World Tour, will be staged at the Araneta Coliseum on Feb. 9. For ticket inquiries, call Concertus at 813-2612 or Ticketnet at 911-5555.

Neil de Mesa's critically acclaimed play **"Subtext"** will be staged on Feb. 3, 4, 10, and 11, 7:30 p.m. at the Koine One Acts. Subtext delves into the world of text messaging, communication, hermeneutics and relationships. For ticket inquiries, call 410-4485 or 0916-5251038. You can also e-mail ktfi2001@yahoo.com or visit www.amazingkoineshows.com. Kione One Acts is located at 2/F FORAB Bldg. 121 Kamuning Rd., Quezon City.

Food

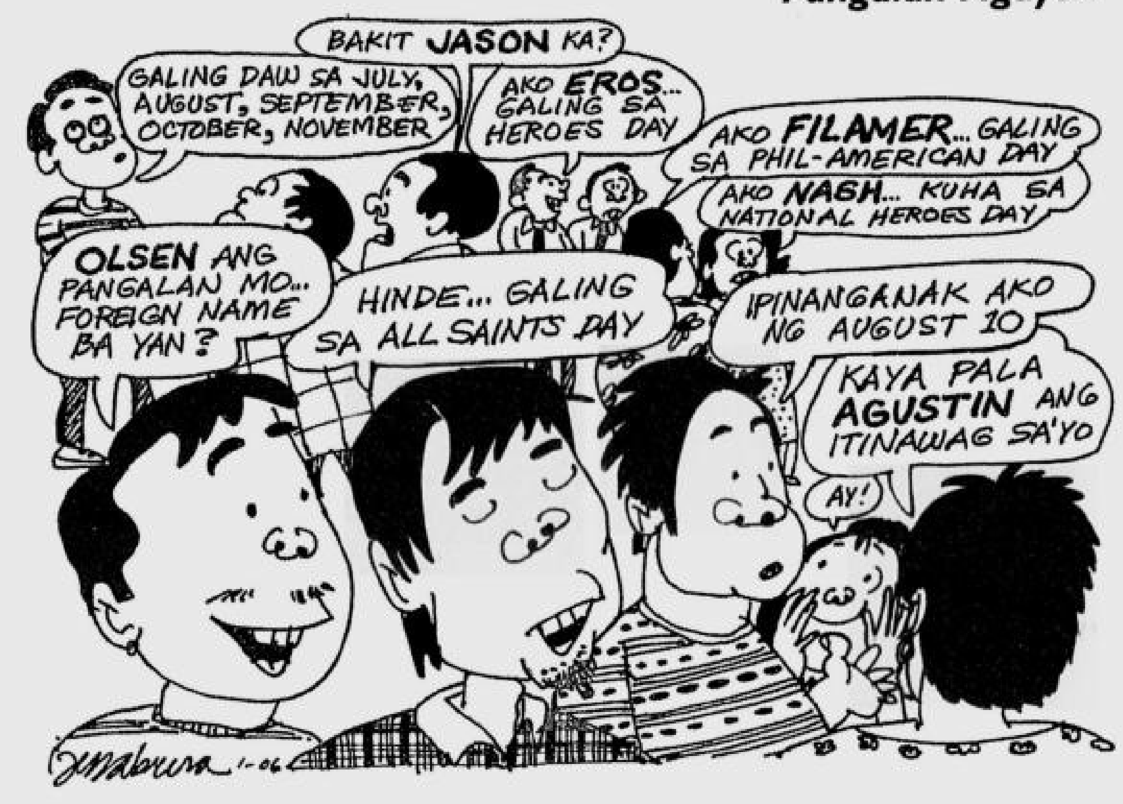
Makati Shangri-La Hotel celebrates the Chinese New Year with **"Bountiful Feasts at Shang Palace."** A flavorful feast of Chinese delicacies such as tikoy, dim sum and other Chinese specialties. Take-out treats are available at the main lobby until Jan. 29.

Mandarin Oriental features South Australian cuisine in **"Tasting South Australia,"** a two-week food promotion, at The Tivoli from Jan. 23 to Feb. 5. Epicureans will be treated to fine South Australian food also known as "tucker," which will be prepared in a variety of ways by the Tivoli's culinary team.

Pinoy Nga!

Jess Abrera

Pangalan Ngayon

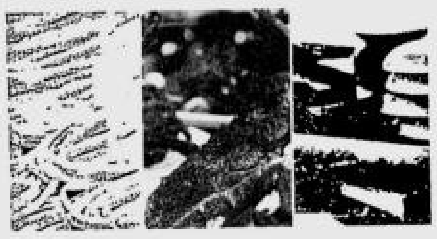


BAKIT JASON KA?
GALING DAW SA JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER
AKO EROS... GALING SA HEROES DAY
AKO FILAMER... GALING SA PHIL-AMERICAN DAY
AKO NASH... KUHA SA NATIONAL HEROES DAY
OLSEN ANG PANGALAN MO... FOREIGN NAME BA YAN?
HINDE... GALING SA ALL SAINTS DAY
IPINANGANAK AKO NG AUGUST 10
KAYA PALA AGUSTIN ANG ITINAWAG SA'YO
AY!
1-06

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Atbp

The Unesco National Commission of the Philippines and the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC) will hold a symposium-workshop on **"Overcoming Barriers to Public Domain Information"** on Jan. 25. The event will focus on issues and constraints in providing access to information that are for public interest and the common good. With the theme Increasing Connectivity to Underserved Areas through ICT, the symposium-workshop aims to consolidate the gains and progress in the application of ICT for rural transformation and to use the lessons learned for enhancing e xisting initiatives and projects. For more information, please contact May at 725-4227 or 725-4228.



South Australian cuisine at the Manndarin Oriental's Tivoli Grill

A gathering of companies and organizations engaged in bridal events and businesses will converge in **"Weddings at Forbes Park, A Wedding Fair"** on Feb. 18 and 19 at the Santuario de San Antonio Center, Forbes Park, Makati. For more details, call Philtrade Exhibits at 825-0804 or 825-0804 or text 0917-8557137 or 0920-8766506.

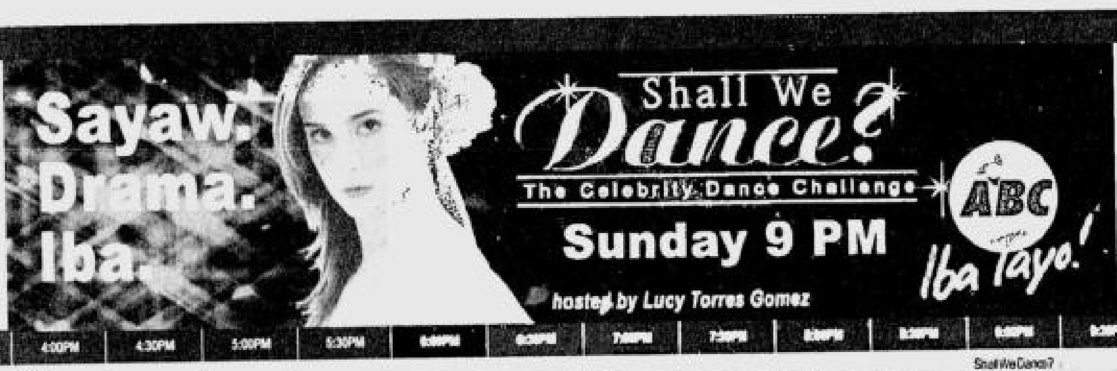
Photoworld Manila 2006, an event by the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation, will be held at the Glorietta, Ayala Center on Feb. 9 to 14. Photography tools and the latest camera models will be on display. A series of workshops and seminars will also be held at the Asian Institute of Management. Top foreign and local photography experts from various fields of expertise will share new techniques and technology in photography. For inquiries, call Lerma Aquino at 813-7420 or 843-5341. You can also e-mail info@photoworldmanila.com.

The UP Film Institute will be having its **Production Management Workshop** scheduled for Feb. , 15, 16, 17, 22, 23 and 24. The workshop presents an overview of the practices and procedures relating to the logistical and business side of film and video production.The workshop focuses on preparing budgets for independent audiovisual productions and mainstream, feature-length film productions.Workshop directors will be Mads Adrias, executive producer of Furball Productions and Amor Olaguer, UP Film Institute, studio executive for Star Cinema. For inquiries, e-mail bjorki71@yahoo.com or call 925-0286, 926-3640 look for Laisa.

Philippine Daily Inquirer

TV GUIDE

Sunday, January 22, 2006



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2. Key in CTC TV and send to 2333 for Globe and to 225 for Smart. PhP2.50 per SMS sent.

Channel	[illegible]	[illegible]	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC5		Ringside TV		PBA										Shall We Dance?		Rockstar Inxs		Charlotte Church	
ABS-CBN2	A.S.A.P Fanatics		Pinoy Big Brother Buzz		The Buzz				Goin' Bulilit		Search For A Star In A Million	Rated K		TV Patrol World		Sunday Family Cinema			
AXN		3 Ninja's High Noon At Mega Mountain				E Buzz	Samsung Sports World	Maximum Exposure (Season II)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Ultimate Guinness World Records	The World's Most Shocking Moments Caught On Tape		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)		CSI: NY (Season I)		CSI: Miami (Season II)	
Cartoon Network	X-Men Evolution	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Xiaolin Showdown	Tom & Jerry Show		Codename: Kids Next Door		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Teen Titans	Samurai Jack	The Life & Times Of Juniper Lee	Powerpuff Girls	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Dexter's Laboratory	Crush Gear Nitro	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Superman The Animated Series	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Harvey Birdman (11:45PM)
Cinema One				Volta				Till There Was You				Malvarosa				Bahay Ni Lola 2			
Cinemax			20,000 League Under The Sea			Empire Of The Sun					Wild Things 2: The Glades			Dead Canaries			How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days		
CNN	International Correspondents	World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	World News	Design 360	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	Talk Asia	World News	MainSail	World News	World Sport	Global Challenges	Business Traveller	Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Discovery Channel		Beyond Tomorrow		American Chopper		The Greatest Ever Fighter Planes		Mythbusters		Crossings: Tony Tan		Hour China		Boys Of H Company					
Disney Channel	Recess	Totally Spies	Lizzie McGuire	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Buzz on Maggie	Mr Bean	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Phil Of The Future	Even Stevens	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN				Gymnastics Fig World Cup 2005/06						International Ironman Triathlon		College Football Bowl Game '06 Hula Bowl						Pool/Snooker Premier Snooker League '05	
ETC		Veronica Mars		American Dreams 2		Saturday Night Live		One Tree Hill 2		Rated OH 3	The Insider Weekend	Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		ET Weekend		Nip/Tuck			
EWTN	Pilgrimages To The Shrines Of Eastern Europe	Angelus (3:15PM)	The Donut Man	Adventures In Odyssey	Deep Conversation: Deep Prayer	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Octava Dies	Rome Reports	EWTN Bookmark	EWTN Global Showcase		Onward Pilgrims	Mirror Of The Soul	Sunday Mass (SAP) Live			Life Is Worth Living	The Abundant Life	
Fox News		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox Report Saturday		Heartland With John Kasich		Big Story Weekend Edition		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox & Friends Sunday						Fox News Live	
GMA7	Gigsters	Love To Love		S-Files				Mahiwagang Baul		Starstruck 3		Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
Hallmark Channel	The Nanny	The Nanny	Plainsong				Fielder's Choice (6:20PM)			To The Ends Of The Earth (7:10PM)				Hercules					
HBO			The Missing (3:45PM)					Chasing Liberty				Spider-Man 2				HBO Full Access: Spider-Man 2	Intolerable Cruelty		
IBC13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop	Mr Taxman	Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		Legacy Of Hero		Jemah Moves On Primetime Weekend				Iyo Ang Katarungan	EL SHADDAI		
JackTV	Arrested Development	Arrested Development	Arrested Development	Family Guy	Dr Katz	Afterburn		Smackdown				Jack In The Box				South Park	Dr. Katz	Comedy Central Presents	Premium Blend
Lifestyle Network	Date With Design	Ground Rules	Outer Spaces	Your Private Island	Breathing Room	Back To Basics	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Ciao America With Mario	Food Network Special		E! Entertainment Special		Thomas Crown Affair				Clean House	
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits		Laguna Beach	MTV Cribs	MTV Hits	Viva La Bam	Pimp My Ride	Get Hitch'd	MTV Screen	The 70's House	Spring Break	MTV Presents				Whatever Things	MTV Hits	Essential VH1	
MYX		Pinoy MYX Countdown				Take 5	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	Star MYX	MYXLOG	Pop MYX	MYX Presents		MYX Hit Chart				MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		No Borders				Crittercam Wildtech Adventure	Monkey Business	Amazing Moments		Taiwan To The World		Megastructures		Microkillers Week		No Borders			
NBN				Paco Park Presents		Kamao Sa Kamao		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)			Inter-Aksyon Sa Bayan	Battle Royale		The Sports List	TBA		Business & Leisure		Unlimited Diving
Nickelodeon	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Unfabulous	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	Zoey 101	Avatar The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	Catscratch	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly OddParents	Dark Oracle	Zoey 101	Unfabulous	Girls In Love	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Four Eyes	The Wild Thornberrys	The Brothers Garcia
PBO			Working Boys				Kakampi Ko Ang Diyos				Nagmumurang Kamatis				Soul to Soul				Fight Night 2
Qtv		Baywalk		Joan Of Arcadia		Girang Fashionista		Ang Pinaka..		Pop Star Kids		May Trabaho Ka		Sunday Super Sine				MINT (Music Interactive)	
RPN9		Golf Power	Auto Extreme	Fistorama		JAG		JAG		Navy Ncis		Without A Trace		NBA On RPN				Sure Hits	The Working President
SBN21				Buhay Pinoy		Shepherds Voice		New Life				Oras Ng Himala		Orasng Katotohanan		Gabay At Aksyon			
Solar Sports		NBA Game Cavaliers @ Jazz					TV Shopping	GWS Ep 55-2005	NBA Jam	NBA Game Cavaliers @ Jazz					Copenhagen Masters 2005 Finals				NBA Inside Stuff
Sports Plus				ACC Basketball Miami @ North Carolina St.				World Game		Raceworld		Ray Ban Celebrity Poker Challenge				Bob Hope Chrysler Classic Day 4			
Star Movies			Touched (3:40PM)				Picture Perfect (6:25PM)	I, Robot (7:05PM)				The Ladykillers			Dude Where's My Car (10:45PM)				
Star World		Man Vs Beast/ Scrubs (Series 2)		North Shore		BusinessWeek Asia	Travel Asia	Smallville		Malcolm In The Middle (Series 5)	The Kumars At No. 42	Little Britain (Series 3)		Koffee With Karan		Friends		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle (Series 5)
Studio23								Nginig		Y Speak		Joey	Living With Fran	Will & Grace	F	Digital Tour (10:15PM)	Chefs On The Go (10:45PM)		Buffy The Vampire Slayer

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Seen on TV

by Joy Rojas
photographs by Raffy Lerma

The Big Brain (But Not the Voice) Behind 'Big Brother' Is A Late Bloomer

It changed the lives of 13 total strangers and the landscape of Philippine television. But Pinoy Big Brother transformed its producer Lauren Dyogi, as well, melting his tough exterior to reveal a sensitive guy who has learned to smile at his life's successes and realities

FOR the record, Laurenti Dyogi is not the voice of *Kuya* on the runaway hit of a reality show "Pinoy Big Brother" (PBB). That speaking part belongs to a noncelebrity who had to audition for the role that has had millions speculating on his true identity since the show aired on ABS-CBN last August.

Still, helming the hot primetime series where cameras capture the every move of 13 total strangers cohabiting for 111 days has prompted Dyogi to behave, well, the way any *kuya* would. If Dyogi, a TV and movie director who serves as one of the producers on PBB, wasn't watching the housemates on monitors, he was thinking about them on Sunday, his day off.

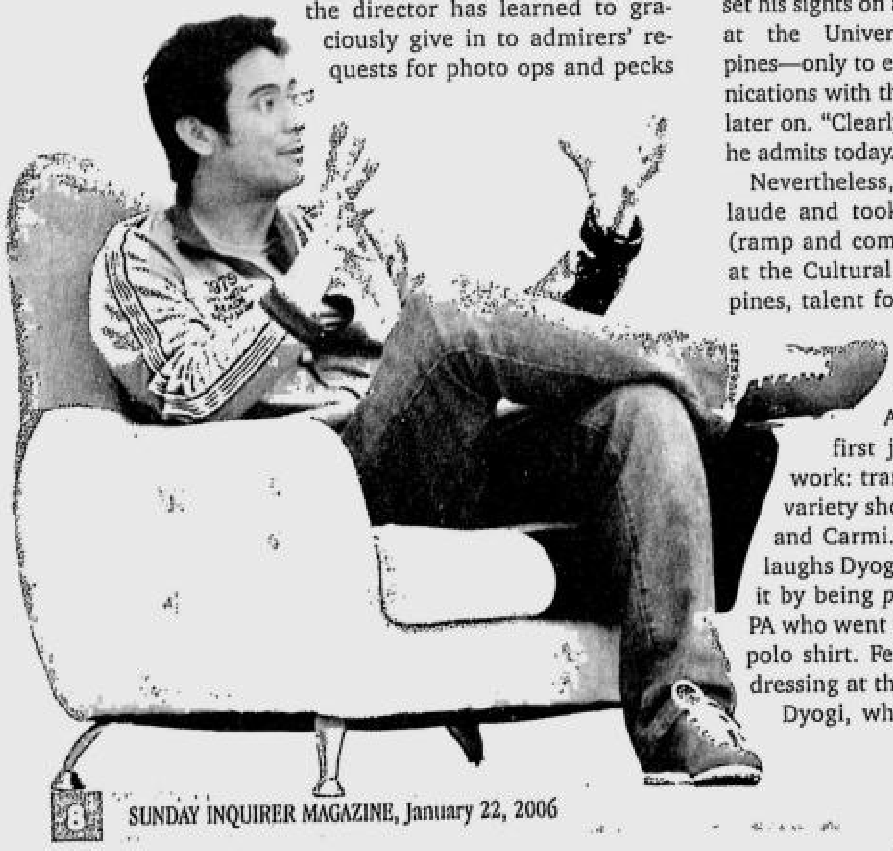
"You somehow become very protective of them," says Dyogi, who worried whenever female housemates undressed under the watchful eyes of PBB's mostly male crew, or when housemate Bob de la Cruz suddenly fainted and was forced to withdraw from the show for health reasons. "That's why whenever I come across negative comments about the housemates on the Net or in social gatherings, I get so affected! They don't deserve to be criticized so much. They're just being true to themselves."

Sentimental

Indeed, given the amount of time, energy and emotions he's invested in the show during the last six months, it's almost as if Dyogi was a housemate himself—so much so that when the monitors were shut off and the house was vacated after the finals in December, the director couldn't help but feel just a little sentimental.

"*Malungkot din* (I feel sad, too)," he says, smiling. "But more than that, I'm so relieved that it's over and that it was a success. I don't think I could have lasted another week."

Fans of the Netherlands-based reality show that has spawned versions in almost 30 countries certainly accord him the "housemate" treatment. Virtually recognized wherever he goes these days, Dyogi has taken to wearing a cap whenever he's in crowded places like the mall (though it doesn't help when the show's theme, "Pinoy *Ako*" by Orange N Lemons is playing in the background). And the simple act of crossing the street that separates the PBB house from his ABS-CBN offices now takes longer than it used to, as the director has learned to graciously give in to admirers' requests for photo ops and pecks on the cheek.



"I'm turning 40 in March and I'm thinking, '*Ngayon pa!*' *Napaka*-late bloomer *ko talaga!*'" says Dyogi with a laugh, at all the adulation. "But these are the people who patronize your program so you cannot say no to them. If not for their support, I wouldn't be enjoying what I have now. *Natuto din ako* (I eventually learned)," he concludes with a smile. "*Natuto din akong mas ngumiti at humarap sa tao.*" (I've learned to smile and face people.)

He sure has. The only son of an insurance underwriter from his third wife, Dyogi was in grade six when he learned about his "exotic" first name. "I've always been known as Lauren and my father is Laurentino. But when my parents went to City Hall to get my birth certificate, they discovered that I was registered as Laurenti! So maybe while my father was registering me, there was a mix-up and I became Laurenti. Sounds Italian," he chuckles. (His last name, by the way, is Fookien in origin.)

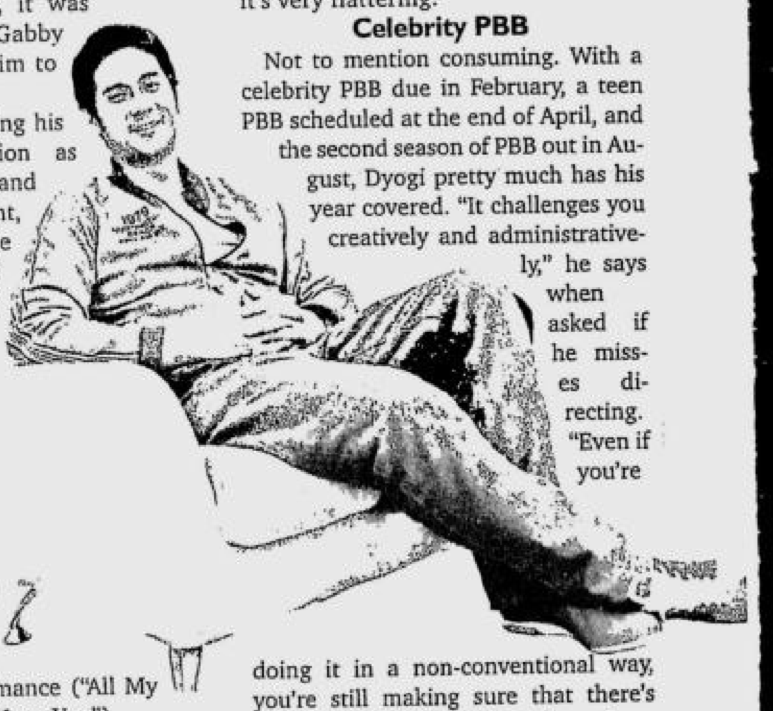
That he was born out of wedlock, meanwhile, was something he would know soon after. Dyogi, who was 12 when he was introduced to his half brothers in a Chinese restaurant, would only see his father during lunch. As an elementary and high school student at Letran, Lauren remembers crossing Jones Bridge to his dad's office, where he would take his meals at noon. "And I just had to sign for them because the people knew who my father was."

Withdrawn and insecure

Although he accepted the strange set-up, Dyogi (who also grew up with siblings from his mother's previous relationship) became quiet, withdrawn and insecure. Art became his means of expression, and he got so good at it, he set his sights on an architecture degree at the University of the Philippines—only to enroll in Mass Communications with the intention of shifting later on. "Clearly a sign of insecurity," he admits today.

Nevertheless, he graduated cum laude and took on a series of jobs (ramp and commercial model, usher at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, talent for the Channel 13 gag show "O *Sige*," freelance director and writer) before joining ABS-CBN in 1989. His first job for the giant network: transcribing lyrics for the variety show "Tonight With Dick and Carmi." "I was so bad at it," laughs Dyogi, "I just got away with it by being *pa*-cute. I was the only PA who went to work in slacks and a polo shirt. Feeling *ko*, I was power dressing at the time."

Dyogi, who stood out partly for his towering height and partly because he was one of the few men in the then booming broadcast industry, worked his way from the bottom up, securing people's confidence along the way. He trained under director Johnny Manahan, and got a vote of confidence from network bigwig Charo Santos Concio. When he contemplated quitting for greener pastures in Singapore, it was ABS-CBN chair Gabby Lopez who asked him to stay.



Years before earning his corporate designation as business unit head and VP for entertainment, Dyogi made a name for himself as a TV and film director with a resume that runs the gamut of genres: he's done massacre movies ("Calvento Files"), teen vehicles ("G-mik: The Reunion," "Qpids"), TV soap (*"Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay"*), and romance ("All My Life," "Now That I Have You").

Ironically, it was in reality shows where the director would make his mark. As one of the three jurors of Star Circle Quest, Dyogi admits that his stern demeanor was all a front; truth be told, he was probably more nervous than the aspiring entertainers of the popular talent search. "I'm really serious when I work, but on the first taping day of SCQ, I was so scared, I didn't even know what I was saying!" he exclaims with a laugh.

And then there's PBB. Pitched by his UP professor and fellow business unit head Linggit Tan, who saw how powerful the show was when she was vacationing in Australia, "Big Brother" appealed instantly to ABS-CBN's bosses. Dyogi, however, found it too adult and un-Pinoy for Filipino audiences. "It's hard to handle. It takes a certain maturity, authority and courage to do. I mean, you can't predict anything or plan too far."

'100 seconds'

Nevertheless, Dyogi appears to have found his niche. Of the show's many innovations, PBB's "100 seconds" (where a housemate has a little over a minute to make physical contact with an outsider in the house's confessional room) is his contribution, as is the catchy anthem which he chose during crunch time while combing through CDs at National Book Store Quezon Avenue.

Needless to say, the executives at Endemol (the company responsible for "Big Brother" and other shows like "Fear Factor") are happy. "Very," reports Dyogi, beaming. "(Creative director) Anuska Bann said our kick-off was one of the best launches in the world. (Managing director for South East Asia) Ed Sharples was amazed at our grand finals in Clark. And TV executives from Thailand (where the show is not as hot) were flown to the Philippines to observe how we do it. It's very flattering."

Celebrity PBB

Not to mention consuming. With a celebrity PBB due in February, a teen PBB scheduled at the end of April, and the second season of PBB out in August, Dyogi pretty much has his year covered. "It challenges you creatively and administratively," he says when asked if he misses directing. "Even if you're doing it in a non-conventional way, you're still making sure that there's something people will watch and appreciate as the events unfold. I'm still enjoying myself."

Nothing, of course, comes close to the happiness of spending time with his family. "When I'm feeling down, I just go home and embrace my wife and I'm okay," says Dyogi with a smile of his better half, his college sweetheart Liza. A dutiful dad, he drives their 10-year-old daughter Lian Kyla to school and picks her up after classes. Come Saturday, and with an hour to kill before he fetches his little girl from voice lessons, Dyogi will either get a scalp treatment or foot spa at his local barber. "My dad does this. Now I can't believe I'm doing it, too!"

'Survivor'

If he watches TV at all, it's—surprise, surprise—reality shows that pique his interest. "I prefer 'Amazing Race' over 'Survivor,'" he says. "And I'm trying to watch 'The Apprentice.'"

Perhaps it's reality TV's stripped-down style that spurs Dyogi to ensure that his next film won't be anything like his first. "When people say they remember my first movie for the camera work but not for the story, I decided to do away with all the crane shots and the dollys and focus on making movies that are simple and well told," he says. "I'm still working on it, but hopefully my future films will be heartfelt and straight to the point."

Big Brother would definitely approve.